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# The Maryland Yellowthroat

May 2022

Photo by Debi Talbott

We raise a glass to, and with (if only in memory), Bob Ringler, (1946-2022) to honor his contributions to Maryland birding. Marcia Watson remembers his remarkable life in a tribute, beginning on page 21

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**The Maryland Yellowthroat**

**Publication of the Maryland Ornithological Society**

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## Editor's Note

The cover page of this issue of the Yellowthroat is dedicated to a treasured, long-time MOS member, Bob Ringler, who sadly passed away in 2022. Marcia Watson has composed an eloquent remembrance, which you can find beginning on page 21. We also include a tribute, written by Barbara Johnson, to another inspiring MOS member, Philip Davis. Barbara's article begins on page six. Philip is currently serving as the Secretary of the Maryland and District of Columbia Records Committee, and, on cue, his Records Committee report follows Barbara's. We are honored to present both testimonies by Barbara and Marcia, both remarkable, long-time MOS members themselves. Their many contributions to the organization and to the birding community, as well as the contributions of the individuals about whom they have written, remind us again of our gratitude to members like them who really keep MOS humming along in good working order.

Also, in this issue, we introduce a new feature, a forum for MOS members and others to share opinions and commentary on topics pertaining to birds and birding. We are calling it The Members' Perch, a name suggested by MOS member Jim Speicher, who has contributed the first entry on page five. For those who might want to avail themselves of this vehicle of communication, here are some guidelines that might prove helpful:

-- Please attempt to keep articles/commentary to no more than one page or 500 words in length.

-- Please focus on issues, not personal attacks. Of course, this goes without saying with us MOS members, who pride ourselves on our civility and courtesy. Rebuttals or opinions contrary to those previously-published are, however, perfectly fine.

-- Please limit any biographical information with your name to your MOS chapter accompanied perhaps by a brief sentence. The merits of the commentaries should speak for themselves.

-- We may have to suggest editorial changes, shorten article length, or even postpone entries to subsequent issues, to accommodate available space and layout design.

-- Of course, it is understood that contributors will be speaking solely on their behalf, and that any published submission will not express nor reflect any official position(s) of MOS or its members.

Our collective experiences and perspectives suggest that we may have an opportunity here to encounter many stimulating, informed thoughts and ideas. Let's see how this goes!

Elsewhere in this issue, Marcia Watson keeps us up to date on the latest sanctuary committee activities and, once again, gives us another in her series profiling the MOS sanctuaries, this one focusing on Mandares Creek. These profiles are just the thing to keep handy when thinking about new places to explore in the state. Pat Valdata tells us about a beautiful wooden bowl that you might encounter If you visit the Irish Grove sanctuary. Chris Eberly fills us in on the latest at MCBP. And Jean Wheeler, as we have come to look forward to, contributes the latest Chapter Chatter with accounts of the most recent adventures of the MOS membership. And, so many beautiful photographs. We also need to thank Susan Pardew, eagle-eyed copy editor, for yet again spotting typographical and other assorted errors in the Yellowthroat text. Speaking of members who keep MOS humming along....

## President's Corner

I am writing this note in early April, in order to make the deadline for this issue of the Yellowthroat to appear in your mailboxes sometime around the first of May. The weather, as is so often the case in early April, isn't really conducive to being outside; the temperature is in the 40's, it's windy, and the sky is cloudy. Yes, April is the cruelest month, full of promise of warmth, but so often coming up short in temperature and sunshine. We had the spring work weekend at Irish Grove the first weekend of the month, and while the temperatures were only in the 50's, the sun shone brightly and much was accomplished. In particular, the west side of the pole shed was repainted (see photo). That side of the shed had been re-sided on the Saturday of the work weekend in 2019, and a first coat of paint was applied on that Sunday. Unfortunately, it rained later in the day, and the rain washed some of the paint off. Multiple work days since then were called off because of Covid, so it was a high priority that needed attending to. Fortunately, the temperature was just high enough (plus we waited until the afternoon so the sun was on that side of the shed), and there was no rain. And while painting the shed was the highlight of the work that was done, the real highlight of the work weekend was seen by the caravan of cars that went down the road towards Rumbly Point after dinner. As the sun set, a pair of Short-eared Owls started working low over the marsh, and good looks were had by all. While we were stopped on the road gazing at the owls, those with good ears were able to hear a Yellow Rail clicking to the east, near Marumsco Creek. Sadly, my hearing isn't good, and that was one that got away.

The work weekend at Irish Grove was a full weekend, with people arriving as early as Friday night and with many staying over Saturday night into Sunday. That was possible because of the lull in the Covid pandemic since the peak of the Omicron variant. And a joy it was to again see people! To eat dinner in the dining room with others!! But the course of the Covid pandemic is hard to predict, and with the arrival of the newest variant, Omicron BA.2, cases in Maryland have started to creep upwards once again, though still at a low level as I write this letter. At the moment, the MOS convention, scheduled for May 20-22 at Solomons, is still on, but we will be keeping a very close watch on the case and hospitalization levels for the state.

A final decision on whether to hold the convention will have been made by the time this newsletter reaches your mailbox (or your inbox), and we are keeping our fingers crossed that we will be able to hold the convention as planned. Meg Harris, the convention chair, has overseen a committee that has put a great deal of time and effort into planning. I, for one, am looking forward to it!

Both the work weekend at Irish Grove and the convention are examples of the volunteer work that MOS members undertake in support of MOS activities. Without those volunteers, neither the work weekend nor the convention would take place. As president, I often get suggestions of things that MOS should be doing, in support of various goals such as conservation. MOS does have certain resources that can be applied to these goals. Chief among these is our ability to spend money in support of our activities. Currently, our annual budget is over $100,000, and that supports many activities ranging from conservation advocacy to scholarships to youth activities; it also allows us to print and mail the Yellowthroat. The other resource that MOS can provide is willing volunteers, such as those who were at Irish Grove on the work weekend, or those who are working to put on the convention. The key words here are "willing" and "volunteers". MOS is entirely supported by volunteers, and finding volunteers to step into roles such as the currently-open chair of the Sanctuary Committee can be difficult. This is not a problem unique to MOS; many other organizations face the same challenge that we do and are struggling to find volunteers to fill organizational needs.

But MOS members do volunteer in large numbers to support some things. In particular, the MD-DC Breeding Bird Atlas is entirely dependent on volunteers to collect observations of breeding activity, and most of those volunteers are MOS members. The difference between volunteering for the Atlas and volunteering to chair the Sanctuary Committee is that conducting atlas surveys is just birding with a purpose, another reason to do something we all want to do anyway. The Atlas is another reason to go out birding; chairing the Sanctuary Committee doesn't lead directly to more birding (short-eared owls over the Rumbly Point marsh notwithstanding). I am reminded of an anecdotal recounting of how atlasing started in Maryland. In the 1970's, the then-president of the Montgomery Bird Club asked Chan Robbins if he had any suggestions for what his club members could do in the summer when birds weren't migrating. Chan at that time was thinking about breeding bird atlases, such as the ones being conducted in Europe, and he promptly organized a breeding bird atlasing effort for Montgomery County. The next year, Howard County was included, and shortly thereafter the whole of the state was atlased for the first time. Atlasing is indeed "Birding with a Purpose", as a recent article in the New York Times about the New York atlas explained, and serves not only to push us to go out birding more often but also to bird more thoughtfully and to deepen our understanding of birds and bird behavior. What MOS member wouldn't volunteer for that!

There is a lesson in the outpouring of volunteers for the Atlas that we, the leaders of MOS, should pay attention to. MOS members are birders, first and foremost, and will volunteer to do things that provide them with opportunities to combine their love of birding with becoming more deeply involved with birds. That means we should be able to recruit MOS volunteers easily to support efforts such as the Atlas, efforts that can have an important conservation output and that require dedicated birding. MOS really doesn't lack volunteers; what it is lacking is a mechanism to identify projects that gives MOS members a purpose to go birding. It is a different way of thinking about how to approach big tasks such as conservation that MOS should be addressing. Rather than just throwing money at the problem, hoping someone will apply for a grant who can use the money wisely, we can select projects that our own members can contribute to, by doing what they love best – going birding. Such projects

do exist, but we do not have a means right now of identifying those projects, nor a way to support them. We need to figure it out soon; the Atlas only lasts another two and a half years. How will we bird with a purpose then?

John McKitterick

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President, MOS

*Figure1: The west side of the pole shed at Irish Grove being painted. Thank you Jane Fallon, Robin Todd, and Bobbie Wells (on the ladders), for this first coat of paint. And a big thank you to Bob Zerbe, who sat in for me to oversee the paint job (and who provided the tall ladder)! Photo by Marcia Watson*

## 2022 MOS Convention Update

The MOS Annual Convention will be held May 20 - 22, 2022 in Solomons, MD at the Solomons Inn Resort and Marina. Registration is open until May 3rd.Field trip sign-up starts April 1st and ends May 16th. MOS is excited to partner with Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS) this year. Their members have expertise in this part of Maryland and have helped us pick field trip locations. They are also providing leaders for some of our field trips. There will be two different boat field trips along with a dozen or so more walking field trips.

MOS has received cash and item donations from multiple sponsors. We will be raffling off a number of items, and we have an MOS-wide silent auction for a few big ticket items. Check the convention website, MOS Convention, to see what's available and more details on all parts of the convention.

We have some great speakers lined up. Our Friday night Keynote Speaker will be Greg Kearns, a Park Naturalist II, from the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, who will talk about an automated migration tracking system and its impact in North America.

Our Saturday afternoon seminar speakers will be Andy Wilson, Associate Professor for Environmental Studies, Gettysburg College, who will talk about nocturnal flight recordings and Melissa Boyle Acuti, Citizen Science Program Volunteer from the Maryland Park Service, who will talk about the Northern Saw-whet Owl banding as part of Project Owlnet station at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Then Saturday night our Keynote Speaker will be Fred Tutman, Patuxent Riverkeeper, who will talk about why, in spite of decades of citizen activism, the Patuxent River still struggles to thrive.

The Pin Design contest is closed. We received 15 pin designs from 6 artists. The winner will be announced soon. You can still submit photos to the Photo Contest, and you can vote for your favorite picture starting May 14th and ending May 19th. We will have eight scientific posters on display during the Saturday afternoon Social. We added a new attendee orientation Friday at noon to help people new to the convention get acclimated.

## MBCP Update

### Bird Conservation Happenings in Maryland

#### Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival

The inaugural Maryland Osprey and Nature Festival was held on April 2 in Lusby. The Festival, a grassroots movement, was created to **celebrate** our charismatic Ospreys and **educate** the public, agencies, and owners of structures to foster an attitude of co-existence and **conservation** awareness in Calvert County and throughout the Bay. Proceeds from the festival go to non-profit organizations who have a vested interest in protecting and conserving Ospreys, Bald Eagles, other wildlife, and natural areas of Maryland. About 400 people attended the event, held at the Drum Point Club where the Patuxent River meets the Chesapeake Bay. Owl Moon Raptor Center was the recipient of this year's Festival donation. MBCP is proud to serve as the fiscal host of the Festival. Thanks to MOS for being a sponsor of the Festival and supporting raptor conservation!

**Bald Eagles are Nesting – Please Help Us!**

Bald Eagle eggs are hatching, and we need you help to know where these nests are located and how many eaglets are in a nest. As you being you are out birding or starting your Breeding Bird Atlas work for the season, please report any sightings to us. Visit https://marylandbirds.org/bald-eagle-nest-monitoring for information and to view a current map of known Bald Eagle nests. If you find an eagle nest, please send an email to eagles@marylandbirds.org and include the following information:

·Nest ID (you can find this by clicking the icon on the map for the nest)

·Coordinates (if you can't find the Nest ID)

·Nest information (such as in a hardwood tree, 100 feet from a creek, etc.)

·How many adults and young birds you see

Thanks for helping us keep track of our growing Bald Eagle population!

### Farmland Raptor Intern

We are please to welcome Victoria Aguilar as a summer intern. Victoria has a bachelor's degree in Biology from Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (Monterrey, Mexico). She's currently in a cultural exchange program in Maryland, and she's working with Eden Mill Nature Center and Phoenix Wildlife Center volunteer programs. Her goal is to learn from the different conservation programs in the States and give back to the community around her. The Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership and the Audubon Society of Central Maryland are excited to have Victoria helping with the Farmland Raptor Program this summer!

Chris Eberly, Executive Director

Maryland Bird Conservation Partnership

## The Members Perch

Brief commentary [ McKitterick, President's Corner, yt4104, pp3-4 ] on the harassment of the Kirtland's Warbler [KIWA], the first recorded visit for this species in MD, recently appeared in these pages. Surprisingly, for a bird listed on eBird [ <https://ebird.org/species/kirwar> ] with status given as Near Threatened, no attention has been given to the almost relentless pressure that the public exerted on this bird during its brief stay at Swann Park in Baltimore City in October of 2021. That's the primary focus of this effort. Of equal importance, I believe, is the need to offer a counterpoint to the idea that rare birds must inevitably be chased by the birding public.

The full record of checklists documenting the KIWA can be found at either of two links:

<https://tinyurl.com/336y5jhh> or
<https://ebird.org/map/kirwar?bmo=

1&emo=12&byr=1900&eyr=2022&env.

minX=-76.67&env.minY=39.216&env.

maxX=-76.57&env.maxY=39.316&gp=true

Following an initial sighting on 10/4/21, a total of 502 checklists documented the bird with 152 on 10/05, 101 on 10/06, 79 on 10/07, 62 on 10/08, 71 on 10/09, and 38 on 10/10. With approximately 11.5 hours of daylight during this period
[ https://sunrise-sunset.org/us/frederick-md/2021/10 ], that would mean well over 10 KIWA seekers per hour on some days, even assuming even spacing and limited duration of visits to minimize overlap. However, a brief survey of checklists revealed that visit duration sometimes exceeded three hours. It should also be noted that checklist numbers give an incomplete accounting of birding activity as party size may be larger than "1". In addition, checklists that do not record the KIWA are not included on the linked site, though unsuccessful birders may have been equally intrusive to an unseen KIWA. Finally, an unknown segment of the public has a primary interest in photographing birds, but uses eBird's tools to find their way to rarities such as the KIWA.

Comments from the 10/06 observers seen at a glance were almost unanimous in stating that the bird was unaffected by visitors. Even the late event posts on the MD Birding Google Group calling out unethical behavior by birder/photographers indicated that the bird seemed to be indifferent even to actual harassment. The fact is that no one can be sure that the sum total of birding pressure did not have a detrimental effect on the KIWA. It's been noted that its migration path was off-course for the species [ Fleischmann, 2021 Maryland Birding Recap, yt4201, p. 14]. Taking a brief stroll into anthropomorphism, imagine that the bird arrived in Swan Park suffering the same effects that we experience following a red-eye flight from the West coast. It may have needed those 2, 3, 4, or more days to recuperate before moving on. Did it achieve that needed rest given the pressure it faced? Some will be quick to note that "birds have wings" and, if bothered, it would simply have moved on. Again, that can't be known with certainty, but wouldn't that circumstance have caused a scramble to relocate the bird? If it hadn't moved too far, and if it was relocated, wouldn't that fact have been trumpeted to the birding community so that it could be pursued anew? Can anyone give assurance that wouldn't have happened to the KIWA?

It may surprise some, but I am totally in favor of rarity finding. What I can't comprehend is rarity chasing. It seemed in the past to be a puzzling, though generally harmless, activity, whose allure I admit to having succumbed to a half-dozen times in my birding career spanning 50+ years. Times change. Leaving aside the possible deleterious effect our mere presence may in rare instances have on birds, with the climate emergency blinking **RED**, can any unnecessary fossil fuel burning be justified? Isn't it a better idea if we simply go about our normal birding activity and take the chance that we will eventually find our very own Northern Lapwing, Long-tailed duck, Limpkin, Mississippi Kite, Swallow-tailed Kite, Vermilion Flycatcher, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Sandhill Crane, Tropical Kingbird, Couch's Kingbird, Wood Stork, Magnificent Frigatebird, Roseate Spoonbill, or, perhaps, even a 2nd MD record Kirtland's Warbler, to name only a few? If we don't, is that really a tragedy? Is moving up, or maintaining our perch upon the top 100 eBirders more important than the climate? Might just be worth thinking about before the next rare bird alert arrives in our inboxes.

Jim Speicher jugornought@gmail.com

*An early expectation of a career in Wildlife Biology, serving several summers at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, detoured instead to a more than 32 year career in the field of medical research. I believe my most significant contribution to MD birding has been the resurrection in 2018 of the C&O Canal Mid-winter count.*

## PHILLIP C. DAVIS, Secretary of the Maryland and District of Columbia Records Committee

### by Barbara Johnson

Phil and Barbara Davis used to ski on their vacations. But that was before Phil visited every continent, listed over 800 US bird species and owned a Wild Bird Center; before he built a massive bird record archive as Secretary of the Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC); and before he published a single ornithological research paper or bird photograph.

It was before Phil was asked to serve the MD/DCRC in 1993, several years after his birding obsession was sparked by...whiskey bottles.

"We used to play bridge with another couple," Phil explains. "She told us her father made hummer feeders out of whiskey bottles. Then Barbara and I bought our own feeder, filled it, and immediately got a hummer. When he left, we missed him, so we went to a Wild Bird Center and bought every kind of feeder they had."

"We read about a place called Cape May, and took the ferry over. That trip turned out to coincide with The World Series of Birding. We took a shorebird class from Pat Sutton. I remember we were at the meadow and down by the dunes we heard, 'Piping Plover!' and 'Awesome bird!'

The Davises joined the Maryland Ornithological Society (MOS) in the late 80's, and Phil joined the MOS board of Directors in September, 1990.

"I have a motto: 'nothing in moderation, especially moderation', so in 1990 Barbara and I opened the first Wild Bird Center franchise in Columbia. We had it for 5 years-- it was great. Nobody's unhappy in a bird store.

**Travel**

"We started having bird walks. Then, our travel expanded to Alaska and beyond. We went to Attu in 1998 (Maryland's Greg Miller of 'The Big Year' fame was along), and we did another month-long tour in Attu in 2000."

A tour company that later took the Davises to Gambell, Nome, and St. Paul Island subsequently invited them to lead trips to the Bering Sea. Phil led trips there from 2002-2010. Barbara and Phil led their last tour as guides in 2016 to the Azores and Madeira.

"Barbara and I apparently have an affinity for birding at the ends of the earth, especially for islands. We have birded Antarctica and backpacked above the Arctic Circle (to find the Gray-headed Chickadee). We have birded in the Amazon Basin, the Pantanal wetlands of Brazil, the Galapagos, Trinidad and Tobago, on the Azores, Madeira, Canary, and Cape Verde Islands, the Hawaiian Islands, and Easter Island. We have birded in the Andes of Ecuador and Chile, including taking in the 2017 total solar eclipse from the Chilean high desert."

Barbara and Phil Davis post-eclipse toast, Elqui Valley, Chile, 2017

Photo by Fernando Diaz

Barbara and Phil Davis, Rano Raraki, Easter Island

Photo by Sebastian Yancovic

## Philip Davis

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### Career

Even while he was "turning the crank" on the MD/DCRC, running a store, and birding, Phil was the Senior Vice President of the OAO Corporation's Aerospace Systems Group. He managed over 700 employees and $100M in annual revenue and won a multi-billion-dollar NASA contract. Later, until his retirement in 2013, he ran his own IT and aerospace-related consulting practice.

A native of D.C., Phil graduated from Bladensburg High School in 1966. He received an honorary scholarship to Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, but opted to transfer to the University of Maryland, where his attention was captured by the burgeoning field of computer science.

"My entire career was as a Federal government contractor in the information technology (IT), aerospace/space systems, and air traffic control fields; mostly for NASA, the USAF, and the FAA. I worked at Goddard Space Flight Center while I was going to school. But, I dropped out for a while to work for the Bendix Field Engineering Corporation as a computer programmer on a NASA test aircraft and, for over three years, conducted tests and simulations at NASA stations all over the world.

Two of my trips were literally "around the world in 80 days" (one east and one west). Our airplane was a propeller-driven C-118A (DC-6), so we island-hopped across the oceans and stopped at many exotic places that we would have just flown over if we were in a jet aircraft. Besides working with computer systems, I also became a simulated Russian cosmonaut for the Apollo-Soyuz Test Program (ASTP) mission." (Phil can still flash convincing Russian phrases.)

"Another 'claim to fame' is that during the late 1970s and early 1980s, I was a member of the original Global Positioning System (GPS) Development Team." (Phil, birders everywhere should salute you for that!)

### MOS Maryland / District of Columbia Records Committee

"When I took over as Secretary of the MD/DCRC in 1993," Phil says, "Erika Wilson had been the Secretary and (renowned ornithologist) Claudia Wilds was the chair. The two of them came to my house with four boxes of papers. Claudia looked up and said, 'Bald Eagle!' So we got our "yard" Bald Eagle from Claudia Wilds."

Under 27 years of Phil's care and feeding, those four boxes have multiplied into an organized-but-dizzying maze of records that fill the basement of the home in Davidsonville, where he and Barbara live with three parrots and their "pandemic pup".

The Maryland/District of Columbia Records Committee (MD/DCRC) was established in 1982 as a committee of the MOS, to evaluate both historical records and reports of sightings of new or very rare bird species in Maryland and D.C.. The committee works to convert those data into documents that can be used reliably for scientific studies of bird distribution and patterns of avian vagrancy. The Records Committee elects its voting members, some of the most skilled birders in the region, who then serve for three years.

Service on the MD/DCRC is as much academic study as volunteering one's expertise. "Finding people has not been a problem," Phil says. "Once we nominate people, the committee chair asks them to serve. I was told when I began that it would be an opportunity to learn so much. If you're interested in ornithology it's good for your CV. I've had the fortune of meeting so many birders."

Phil sends each committee member four to five packages per year. Each package contains rare bird reports for "about 20 sightings." References from books and field guides are included. In roughly four weeks, the members return comments and render their opinions on the sightings.

"I added a lot of functionality to the processes," Phil says. "In the old days, there were no websites, no eBird. People would send rare bird reports with photographic slides. Everything went through snail mail, passed among nine members. Now, I wrangle in all the digital information, and everything gets uploaded to a server and sent to the committee at once. I'll capture the thumbnails and all the "meta" documentation from eBird, but I no longer download all the original photos, because there can now be hundreds of people photographing a Kirtland's Warbler, for example.

Says MD/DCRC Chair Matt Haffner: "The Records Committee runs entirely through Phil. Every record, every ballot, and every summary passes through his hands. The thoroughness he puts into each record is incredible. He scrambles to find all available documentation, no matter how small. This attention to small details is also seen in his research projects, several of which have started while gathering information on historical records. It's the archive of Maryland Bird Records that he's compiled over the years that is most impressive to me. The records committee database is an indispensable resource for those wishing to learn about the birds of Maryland, and it wouldn't exist without Phil."

MD/DCRC members describe Phil as "superhuman", "meticulous" and "the most organized person I know". Phil also makes sure that service on the committee is appealing. He arranges study skins workshops at the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, where the committee gathers to pore over, for example, the finer points of Dunlin plumage, or the distinctions between specimens of Sharp-tailed and Pectoral Sandpipers. The Davises host an annual committee meeting at their home, which Kathy Calvert and Tim Carney say is always fun and engaging despite the technical nature. They enjoy the

## Philip Davis

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feeder array in the wooded backyard, the resident pet parrots, and Barbara's famous Jiminy Cricket Cake (which, reportedly, is worth the commitment!)

*Phil and Ivory Gull at the Smithsonian*

*Photo by Mike Bowen*

Most of Phil's birding these days is closer to home, including participation in breeding bird surveys, Christmas bird counts, and the Maryland-DC Breeding Bird Atlas 3.

Many more hours are devoted to his historical research, sparked by discoveries he makes combing through records at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum, the U.S Biological Survey, museum databases, and various other archive sources. "It's an amalgam of solo and group work, and this is where my programming background comes out-- I have patience". Many of his publications can be found in the archives of *Maryland Birdlife* and *The Maryland Yellowthroat.* When asked for his favorite topics, Phil lists these:

**Historic Taxonomic** (e.g., the Red-faced Cormorant in AK, the subspecies of Macaronesia [Azores, Madeira, Canaries, Cape Verde])

**Historic Checklists of MD and DC** (from Jefferson's "Bird List" through the present MD/DCRC "Official Lists")

**Historical Records of Vagrancy** (e.g., Albatross records of the western North Atlantic; records of Western Wood-Pewees in MD and east of the Mississippi River, Bicknell's Thrush in MD)

**Historic Profiles of Ornithological Pioneers** (the Baltimore "egg collectors" - Kirkwood, Fisher, Wholey, Sommers, etc.)

**Records of Exotic/Introduced Species** (e.g., African Collared-Doves, Monk Parakeets, etc.)

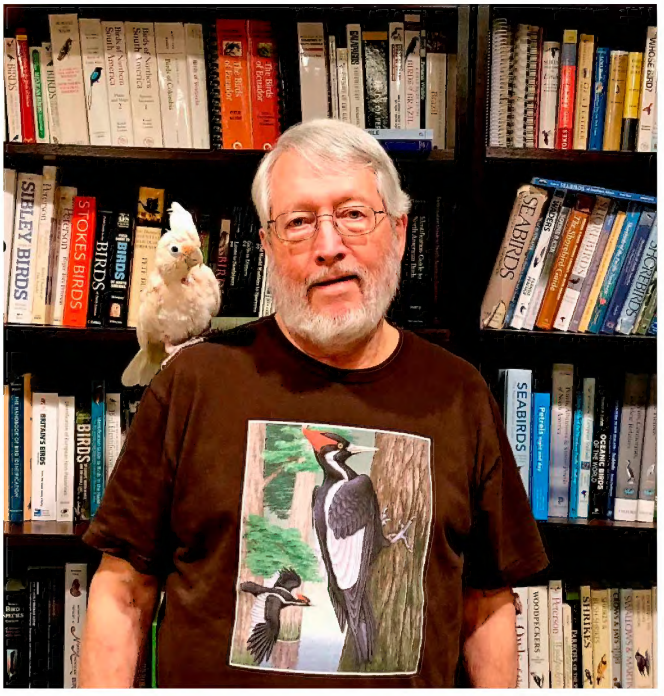
Other resources:

https://birdimages.smugmug.com/ (Phil's bird and travel photos)

https://mddcrcresources.wordpress.com/ (records committee resources including Rich Rowlett's contributions)

https://mddcrcblog.wordpress.com/ (blog of the MD/DCRC)

https://birdingornithology.wordpress.com/ (Birding and ornithology items--highlights include the BBC's filming of the Southern Flying Squirrels visiting the Davises' feeders, a special treat—Phil's hilarious collective nouns for birds)




*Phil with Maggie, Home office*

*Photo by Barbara Davis*

## Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report

## as of April 14, 2022

**by Phil Davis, MD/DCRC Secretary**

The Maryland/DC Records Committee (MD/DCRC) has reached the following record decisions since the latest committee status report was published in *The Maryland Yellowthroat*. This report covers MD/DCRC review packages 187 through 191. MD/DCRC report numbers are shown in brackets. These records will be addressed in additional detail in a future issue of *Maryland Birdlife*. New "state" species (marked with asterisks) include

## Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report

Continued from Page 8

Red-billed Tropicbird, Little Egret, Zone-tailed Hawk, and Kirtland's Warbler for MD and Barnacle Goose for DC. These additions bring the total species on the Official Lists of the Birds of MD and DC to 459 and 343, respectively.

More information on the MD/DCRC can be found on the committee's web page at the following URL:

https://mdbirds.org/records-committee/

**MD Records Accepted:**

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis*[MD/2020-039]**

Chestertown, Kent County.

12-Jun-2019 through~18-Jun-2019. Up to five birds, later, just one.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [MD/2020-032]**

Tilden Lane, Chestertown, Kent County.

06-May-2020 through 16-May-2020. One bird.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [MD/2020-035]**

Trappe, Talbot County.

~25-May-2020 through 26-May-2020. Five or six birds.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [MD/2020-050]**

Walnut Street Extended, Myersville, Frederick County.

23-Jul-2020 through 02-Aug-2020. Two adults, four juveniles.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [MD/2020-062]**

Tydings Marina, Havre de Grace, Harford County.

20-Sep-2020. One bird.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [MD/2021-034]**

McKee-Beshers WMA (Hughes Hollow), Poolesville, Montgomery County.

03-May-2021. Ten birds.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [MD/2021-069]**

Ocean Pines, Berlin, Worcester County.

06-Jun-2021. Four birds.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [MD/2021-080]**

Whittier Lake Park, Frederick, Frederick County.

09-Jul-2021 through 03-Aug-2021. One bird.

**King Eider, *Somateria spectabilis* [MD/2021-038]**

Broadford Lake, Mountain Lake Park, Garrett County.

10-May-2021. One adult female.

**Barrow's Goldeneye, *Bucephala islandica* [MD/2020-091]**

Point Lookout State Park, Scotland, Saint Mary's County.

13-Dec-2020 through 20-Feb-2021. One adult male.

**Western Grebe, *Aechmophorus occidentalis* [MD/2020-087]**

Loch Raven Reservoir, Towson, Baltimore County.

03-Dec-2020 through 04-Feb-2021. One winter-plumaged male.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto* [MD/2020-049]**

Broad Run, Frederick County.

17-Jul-2020 through 22-Aug-2020. One bird.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto* [MD/2020-048]**

Swan Harbor Farm Park, Havre de Grace, Harford County.

24-Jul-2020 through 06-Feb-2021. One bird.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto* [MD/2020-061]**

Scotland, Saint Mary's County.

17-Sep-2020 through 18-Sep-2020. One bird.

**Eurasian Collared-Dove, *Streptopelia decaocto* [MD/2021-076]**

Ernst Market, Clear Spring, Washington County.

27-Jun-2021 through 24-Aug-2021. Up to two birds.

**White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica* [MD/2020-044]**

Thornbrook Road, Ellicott City, Howard County.

23-Jun-2020 through 25-Jun-2020. One bird.

**White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica* [MD/2020-055]**

Wye Farm, Wye Mills, Queen Anne's County.

10-Aug-2020 through 15-Aug-2020. One bird.

**White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica* [MD/2020-068]**

Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County.

04-Oct-2020. One bird.

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**White-winged Dove, *Zenaida asiatica* [MD/2021-082]**

Ocean City, Worcester County.

12-Jul-2021 through 13-Jul-2021. One bird.

**Black Rail, *Laterallus jamaicensis* [MD/2011-369]**

McKee-Beshers WMA (Hughes Hollow), Poolesville, Montgomery County.

07-May-2011. One bird.

**Limpkin, *Aramus guarauna* [MD/2021-098]**

Snyders Landing, Sharpsburg, Washington County.

15-Aug-2021 through 22-Aug-2021. One adult.

**Piping Plover, *Charadrius melodus* [MD/2021-035]**

Patuxent River Naval Air Station, Lexington Park, Saint Mary's County.

07-May-2021. Three adults.

**Whimbrel, *Numenius phaeopus* [MD/2021-116]**

Adamstown, Frederick County.

23-Sep-2021. One bird.

**Hudsonian Godwit, *Limosa haemastica* [MD/2020-065]**

Loch Raven Reservoir, Phoenix, Baltimore County.

29-Sep-2020. Two birds.

**Curlew Sandpiper, *Calidris ferruginea* [MD/2020-072]**

Swan Harbor Farm Park, Havre de Grace, Harford County.

17-Oct-2020 through 26-Oct-2020. One immature.

**Dovekie, *Alle alle* [MD/2021-031]**

Calvert Cliffs State Park, Lusby, Calvert County.

25-Dec-2020. One bird.

**Thick-billed Murre, *Uria lomvia* [MD/2021-023]**

Assateague Island, Berlin, Worcester County.

20-Mar-2021. One bird, injured.

**Thick-billed Murre, *Uria lomvia* [MD/2022-024]**

Atlantic Ocean, Ocean City, Worcester County.

23-Jan-2022. One bird.

**Least Tern, *Sternula antillarum* [MD/2020-047]**

Violettes Lock, Seneca, Montgomery County.

02-Jul-2020. Two birds.

***Red-billed Tropicbird, *Phaethon aethereus* [MD/2021-002]**

Ocean City Inlet, Ocean City, Worcester County.

05-Jan-2021. One adult.

**Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2021-077]**

Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.

25-Jun-2021. One bird.

**Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana* [MD/2021-081]**

Route 4 northbound, side of road, Lusby, Calvert County.

15-Jul-2021 through 16-Jul-2021. One immature.

**Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana* [MD/2021-089]**

Camp Brown Road, Scotland, Saint Mary's County.

01-Aug-2021 through 15-Aug-2021. One bird.

**Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana* [MD/2021-102]**

Patapsco Valley State Park, Linthicum Heights, Anne Arundel County.

16-Aug-2021. One bird.

**Wood Stork, *Mycteria americana* [MD/2021-109]**

Blockhouse Point, Potomac, Montgomery County.

25-Aug-2021 through 21-Sep-2021. One bird.

**Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens* [MD/2020-080]**

Conowingo Dam, Conowingo, Harford County.

08-Nov-2020. One female.

**Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens* [MD/2021-112]**

Rocky Gap State Park, Flintstone, Allegany County.

20-Sep-2021 through 21-Sep-2021. One adult male.

**Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens* [MD/2021-114]**

Assateague Island, Berlin, Worcester County.

04-Oct-2021. One adult female.

**Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2020-027]**

Bayside Beach, Pasadena, Anne Arundel County.

29-Mar-2020. One adult female.

**Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2020-041]**

Eastern Bay/Prospect Bay/Bodkin Is, Queenstown, Queen Anne's County.

01-May-2020 through 17-Aug-2020. At least one adult, one immature.

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**Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2021-026]**

Chesapeake Bay, Rock Hall, Kent County.

27-Sep-2020. Four adults.

**Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2020-071]**

Baltimore Harbor, Baltimore City, Baltimore County.

18-Oct-2020 through 19-Nov-2020. One adult female.

**Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2021-029]**

Kent Point, Stevensville, Queen Anne's County.

10-Nov-2020 through 10-Dec-2020. One immature.

**Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2021-030]**

Pidickory Point and Sandy Point State Park, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County.

04-Dec-2020. One adult.

**Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2021-078]**

Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.

25-Jun-2021. One adult female.

**Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2021-079]**

Port America Chesapeake Terminal, Baltimore, Baltimore County.

05-Jul-2021. One juvenile.

**Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2021-092]**

west of Tilghman Island, Chesapeake Bay, Talbot County.

03-Aug-2021 through 14-Sep-2021. Three adult females, one juvenile

**Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2021-100]**

North Bay Camp, North East, Cecil County.

11-Aug-2021. One immature.

**Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2021-105]**

Chesapeake Bay, Bayside Beach, Anne Arundel County.

15-Aug-2021. Two birds.

**Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2021-103]**

Big Waters Farm, Grasonville, Queen Anne's County.

17-Aug-2021 through 17-Nov-2021. Up to six birds in Aug; up to five in Nov; mixture of ages.

**Neotropic Cormorant, *Nannopterum brasilianum* [MD/2021-107]**

Pennyfield Lock, Potomac, Montgomery County.

28-Aug-2021 through 09-Sep-2021. One bird.

**Neotropic Cormorant, *Nannopterum brasilianum* [MD/2021-108]**

Perryville Community Park, Perryville, Cecil County.

28-Aug-2021 through 01-Sep-2021. One immature.

***Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta* [MD/2021-086]**

North Beach Marsh, North Beach, Calvert County.

25-Jul-2021. One bird.

**Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni* [MD/2021-110]**

Libertytown, Frederick County.

13-Sep-2021. One second-year bird, light morph.

**Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni* [MD/2021-118]**

Owings, Calvert County.

17-Oct-2021. One bird.

***Zone-tailed Hawk, *Buteo albonotatus* [MD/2021-037]**

Marshy Point Nature Center, Chase, Baltimore County.

17-Apr-2021. One bird.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens* [MD/2020-093]**

Anacostia River Trail, Bladensburg, Prince George's County.

19-Dec-2020 through 01-Feb-2021. One bird.

**Ash-throated Flycatcher, *Myiarchus cinerascens* [MD/2021-135]**

National Colonial Farm, Accokeek, Prince George's County.

13-Dec-2021 through 02-Jan-2022. One bird.

**Tropical Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus* [MD/2021-127]**

Blackwater NWR, Cambridge, Dorchester County.

28-Oct-2021 through 11-Dec-2021. One bird.

**Fork-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus savana* [MD/2021-117]**

Pasadena, Anne Arundel County.

16-Oct-2021. One bird.

**Vermilion Flycatcher, *Pyrocephalus rubinus* [MD/2021-113]**

Trout Run WWTP, Mountain Lake Park, Garrett County.

25-Sep-2021 through 01-Nov-2021. One adult female.

**Mountain Bluebird, *Sialia currucoides* [MD/2020-079]**

Swan Harbor Farm Park, Havre de Grace, Harford County.

07-Nov-2020 through 22-Nov-2020. One immature male.

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**LeConte's Sparrow, *Ammospiza leconteii* [MD/2020-070]**

Sands Road Park, Harwood, Anne Arundel County.

09-Oct-2020 through 04-Nov-2020. One bird.

**LeConte's Sparrow, *Ammospiza leconteii* [MD/2020-078]**

Howard County Conservancy, Woodstock, Howard County.

01-Nov-2020. One bird.

**Henslow's Sparrow, *Centronyx henslowii* [MD/2021-062]**

Lake Hallowell, Olney, Montgomery County.

03-May-2021. One bird.

**Brewer's Blackbird, *Euphagus cyanocephalus* [MD/2021-009]**

North Point, Edgemere, Baltimore County.

22-Jan-2021 through 12-Apr-2021. Up to five birds reported: four males and one female.

***Kirtland's Warbler, *Setophaga kirtlandii* [MD/2021-115]**

Swann Park, Baltimore City, Baltimore County.

04-Oct-2021 through 10-Oct-2021. One immature female.

**Townsend's Warbler, *Setophaga townsendi* [MD/2021-007]**

Glen Arm, Baltimore County.

25-Dec-2020 through 26-Apr-2021. One female/immature.

**Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana* [MD/2021-010]**

Howard Lodge Drive, Skyesville, Howard County.

06-Feb-2021. One nonbreeding adult male.

**Western Tanager, *Piranga ludoviciana* [MD/2021-132]**

Wildfowl Trust of North America/Chesapeake Bay Environmental Ctr, Grasonville, Queen Anne's County.

17-Nov-2021. One bird.

**Black-headed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus melanocephalus* [MD/2020-077]**

Denton, Caroline County.

30-Oct-2020 through 02-Nov-2020. One bird.

**Black-headed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus melanocephalus* [MD/2021-028]**

Greenbelt, Prince George's County.

09-Mar-2021 through 07-Apr-2021. One female.

**Black-headed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus melanocephalus* [MD/2021-020]**

Mt Airy, Carroll County.

09-Mar-2021. One bird.

**MD Records Accepted-Form:**

**Whimbrel (European), *Numenius phaeopus phaeopus* [MD/2011-150]**

Assateague Island National Seashore, Berlin, Worcester County.

18-Apr-2011 through 20-Apr-2011. One bird.

**Savannah Sparrow (Ipswich), *Passerculus sandwichensis princeps* [MD/2021-011]**

Rumbly Point, Marion Station, Somerset County.

02-Nov-2020. One bird.

**Savannah Sparrow (Ipswich), *Passerculus sandwichensis princeps* [MD/2021-022]**

Poplar Island, Sherwood, Talbot County.

23-Dec-2020 through 06-Jan-2021. Up to three birds.

**MD Records Accepted-Group:**

**Aechmophorus species, *Aechmophorus sp.* [MD/2020-088]**

Dulaney Valley Road Bridge, Towson, Baltimore County.

03-Dec-2020 through 04-Feb-2021. One winter-plumaged female.

**frigatebird species, *Fregata sp.* [MD/2020-017]**

Kenwood Beach, Port Republic, Calvert County.

04-Apr-2020. One juvenile.

**Tropical/Couch's Kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus/couchii* [MD/2020-082]**

Webster Field, St. Inigoes, Saint Mary's County.

20-Nov-2020 through 23-Nov-2020. One bird.

**MD Records Not Accepted:**

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [MD/2020-073]**

Piscataway Park, Piscataway, Prince George's County.

31-Aug-2020. One bird.

**Anna's Hummingbird, *Calypte anna* [MD/2021-070]**

Piscataway Park, Piscataway, Prince George's County.

15-May-2021. One adult male.

**Black-capped Petrel, *Pterodroma hasitata* [MD/2018-085]**

Atlantic Ocean, Pelagic Zone, Worcester County.

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13-Jun-2017. One bird.

**Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens* [MD/2020-025]**

Rodo Beach Road, Scotland, Saint Mary's County.

11-Apr-2020. One bird.

**Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens* [MD/2020-086]**

Hyattstown, Montgomery County.

16-Nov-2020. One second-year bird.

**Magnificent Frigatebird, *Fregata magnificens* [MD/2020-083]**

Mt. Airy, Howard County.

19-Nov-2020. One bird.

**Brown Booby, *Sula leucogaster* [MD/2021-074]**

Ocean City Inlet, Ocean City, Worcester County.

11-Jun-2021. One immature.

**Neotropic Cormorant, *Nannopterum brasilianum* [MD/2020-053]**

Frontier Town Fishing pier, Ocean City, Worcester County.

12-Aug-2020. One bird.

**Swainson's Hawk, *Buteo swainsoni* [MD/2021-131]**

Washington Monument State Park, Boonsboro, Washington County.

15-Nov-2021. One bird.

**Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Tyrannus forficatus* [MD/2020-037]**

Timonium, Baltimore County.

04-Jun-2020. One bird.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow, *Passer montanus* [MD/2021-021]**

Owen Brown Village, Columbia, Howard County.

10-Dec-2020. One bird.

**Pine Grosbeak, *Pinicola enucleator* [MD/2020-074]**

Scientists Cliffs, Port Republic, Calvert County.

03-Oct-2020. One bird.

**Brewer's Blackbird, *Euphagus Cyanocephalus* [MD/2020-026]**

Laurel, Howard County.

14-Mar-2020. One female.

**Brewer's Blackbird, *Euphagus cyanocephalus* [MD/2021-013]**

Laurel, Howard County.

06-Feb-2021. One female.

**Black-headed Grosbeak, *Pheucticus melanocephalus* [MD/2021-063]**

Croom Road (Rt 383), Brandywine, Prince George's County.

08-May-2021. One bird.

**DC Records Accepted:**

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [DC/2020-033]**

US Capitol, Capitol Reflecting Pool, Capitol Hill

21-May-2020. One bird.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck, *Dendrocygna autumnalis* [DC/2021-061]**

National Mall, Constitution Gardens and Reflecting Pool, National Mall

26-May-2021 through 07-Jun-2021. Six birds.

***Barnacle Goose, *Branta leucopsis* [DC/2020-089]**

East Potomac Park, SW, Hains Point, Hains Point

10-Dec-2020 through 24-Feb-2021. One bird.

**Henslow's Sparrow, *Centronyx henslowii* [DC/2021-123]**

Anacostia, NE, Kenilworth Park, Kenilworth Park

24-Oct-2021 through 25-Oct-2021. One bird.

### MD/DCRC Committee News

The following updates come from the MD/DCRC 2021 and 2022 Annual Meetings.

**1. Committee Members**

Members that completed their three-year voting terms during 2021 were Marcia Balestri, Mike Hudson, and Dan Small. Members that completed their three-year voting terms during 2022 were Kathy Calvert, Tim Carney, and Clive Harris. The committee thanks them for all their efforts over the past years.

New members elected in 2021 for three-year terms were Kevin Bennett (VA), Sam Miller (Anne Arundel), and Paul Pisano (VA). New members elected in 2022 for three-year terms were Paul Budde (DC), Kim Tomko (Baltimore), and Dan Small (Queen Anne). We welcome them to the committee.

The committee was saddened to learn, but pleased to announce, that it elected the late Leslie Starr as a

## Maryland/DC Records Committee Status Report

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posthumous member of the committee. Leslie passed away suddenly in February 2021 as the committee was contemplating its 2021 election of new members. All members agreed that she would have been asked to serve on the committee. We provided a brief tribute to Leslie at the beginning of our 2021 Annual Report and Annual Meeting Minutes.

The committee also grieved at the loss of Maryland birding icon, Robert F. (Bob) Ringler. Bob was the original Secretary and later a voting member of the committee. The committee provided a tribute to Bob at the beginning of its 2022 Annual Report and Annual Meeting Minutes.

At the Annual Meetings, Matt Hafner was reelected committee Chair and Phil Davis was reelected committee Secretary.

**2. Annual Business Report and Annual Meeting and Minutes**

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the MD/DCRC was held on 28 February 2021 and the 2022 Annual Meeting was held on 27 February 2022. The "Annual Business Report and Annual Meeting Minutes" from each meeting have been posted to the MD/DCRC web pages and can be found here

2021 https://drive.google.com/drive/folders

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2022 [tbd]

**3. MD/DCRC Web Updates**

The committee has updated its web products, including the Official Lists for MD and DC, the Review Lists for MD and DC, copies of our abridged MD and DC databases, and other information and administrative products. All are PDF files, available on our web site.

**4. Review List Changes**

The committee adopted the following changes to the MD and DC Review Lists:

**MD:**

**Band-rumped Storm-Petrel** was changed at the 2020 Annual Meeting from MD Review Category 2 (reviewable statewide) to Category 4E (range specific) so that it is now reviewable only inside the Offshore Continental Shelf (OCS). This species is now expected outside of the OCS, so it will only be reviewed inside the shelf and inland. This earlier change, unfortunately, was not posted to our web page during the last update cycle, but it is now correctly shown on the MD Review List.

**Black-capped Petrel** was changed in 2021 from MD Review Category 2 (reviewable statewide) to Category 4E (range specific) so that it is now reviewable only inside the Offshore Continental Shelf (OCS). This species is now expected outside of the OCS, so it will only be reviewed inside the shelf and inland.

**Black Rail** was changed in 2021 from MD Review Category 4C (reviewable only west of the Coastal Plain, except along the Susquehanna River) back to MD Review Category 2 (reviewable statewide).

**LeConte's Sparrow** was removed from the MD Review List in 2021, so it is no longer reviewable in MD.

**Northern Shrike** was returned in 2021 to the MD Review List in Category 2, reviewable statewide.

**Black-bellied Whistling-Duck** was moved in 2021 from MD Category 2 (reviewable statewide) to Category 4C, reviewable only west of the Coastal Plain, except along the Susquehanna River.

**DC:**

In 2021, **King Rail** was added to the DC Review List.

In 2021, **Northern Shrike** was returned to the DC Review List.

At the 2022 meeting, the following species were added to the DC Review List:

**Yellow-headed Blackbird, Painted Bunting, Hudsonian Godwit, Red Phalarope, Little Gull, Whimbrel, Black-headed Gull**

**6. MD Subspecies Review List**

In 2021, a minor format change was made to the MD Subspecies/Form Review List and several taxon changes were adopted. A few taxa were dropped from the Subspecies/Form Review List ,and the follow taxa were added as reviewable subspecies/form "alerts" for MD:

**Common Eider**( Northern), **Sandhill Crane**( Lesser), **Broad-winged Hawk** (dark-morph), **Dunlin** (Greenland)l, **Fox Sparrow** (any ssp. other than Red)

**7. AOS 62nd Supplement Taxonomy Changes**

The American Ornithological Society recently published its annual (62nd) checklist supplement of taxonomic changes. The committee's data products have been updated to reflect the latest changes. The following changes relate to our region:

**a. Name Changes:**

**Mew Gull** was split into (1) the western North American form, Short-billed Gull (*Larus brachyrhynchus*) and (2) the Eurasian form, Common Gull (*L. canus*). Maryland has at least one accepted record that was identified as the Eurasian form, hence, Common Gull will appear on the official MD List. Other non-subspecific accepted MD Mew

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Gull records, and reports awaiting review, are attributed to the "Common/Short-billed Gull complex."

The genus of Double-crested Cormorant and Neotropic Cormorant was changed from *Phalacrocorax* to *Nannopterum* and the scientific species names spellings were conformed to gender (*N. auritum* and *N. brasilianum*, respectively).

The genus of Ruby-crowned Kinglet was changed from *Regulus* to *Corthylio*. [See note, below, on the species order.]

Due to an extralimital split, the scientific name of Sedge Wren was changed from *Cistothorus platensis* to *Cistothorus stellaris*.

**b. Ordering Changes:**

The AOS implemented a major restructuring of the sixty-nine families within the Passerines, with the hope that future changes will be less impactful. The updated Official Lists of MD and DC birds list the species in the correct order. The following regional species were affected:

The shrikes follow the vireos.

The chickadees follow Common Raven

Horned Lark follows the chickadees.

The kinglets follow the swallows. Golden-crowned Kinglet now follows Ruby-crowned Kinglet.

The nuthatches and Brown Creeper follow the waxwings.

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher follows Brown Creeper.

The mimic thrushes follow the wrens.

Northern Wheatear follows Varied Thrush.

## Spotlight on:

## Mandares Creek MOS Sanctuary

## Anne Arundel County

By Marcia Watson

*Note: This article is the fourth in a series spotlighting the ten sanctuaries owned by the Maryland Ornithological Society. The MOS sanctuaries are spread across the state from Garrett County to Somerset County, but the majority are little-known and seldom visited. Yet all the sanctuaries have something to offer the birder, naturalist, or conservationist.*

**Size**: 8.2 acres

**Habitats**: Mostly phragmites marsh, with a small strip of wet deciduous woods and an understory of holly adjacent to the road.

**Hours**: Daylight hours year-round. The sanctuary is located in a residential area, and care should be taken to avoid disturbing the neighbors. The eBird hotspot is labelled as "restricted access," because of the lack of parking. See "Tips" below.

**Cost**: Free. Donations to the MOS Sanctuary Fund are always appreciated; donate online at https://mdbirds.org/conservation/

refuges-sanctuaries/#toggle-id-4.

Habitat at Mandares Creek..Photo by Dominic Nucifora.

**Tips**: Only the woodland strip is walkable. Wear sturdy waterproof footwear as the ground will be muddy. There is currently no signage marking the property; signs are planned. No restrooms. No on-site parking; seek permission to park at Garmin's Brothers Sawmill across the road at # 1270 River Road.

**Wheelchair Access**: The sanctuary is not wheelchair-accessible. River Road is not amenable to birding from the car because it has fast-moving traffic and no shoulders.

**Best Seasons**: Spring and fall migration and early summer for breeding birds; mid-winter through early March for waterfowl.

**Breeding Bird Atlas Block**: Round Bay SW.

**Multimedia:**A short YouTube video (https://youtu.be/3cK1HcTK0dE), created by former MOS Sanctuary Committee Chair Dominic Nucifora, will take you on an armchair tour of Mandares Creek Sanctuary.

**For maps and more information**: Go to https://birdersguidemddc.org/site

/mandares-creek-mos-sanctuary/.

## Spotlight on: Mandares Creek Sanctuary

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Tiny but strategically located, Mandares Creek MOS Sanctuary is in an environmentally sensitive area of the Severn River Watershed in Anne Arundel County and represents MOS's sole example of tidal marsh on the Western Shore of the Chesapeake Bay. At just 8.2 acres Mandares Creek is the smallest property in the MOS sanctuary system. The sanctuary lies on Maynadier Creek, which forms a cove off of Round Bay on the Severn River. (The alternate names Maynadier and Mandares both appear on a succession of maps over the years.)

Although small, Mandares Creek Sanctuary is the keystone for a larger network of productive bird habitat and conservation lands. Across the road are large forested tracts, privately owned, that hold mixed deciduous and coniferous forest and a bog known as Deep Ditch Bog, part of the Maynadier Creek stream valley. Additionally, to the east and south there are several forested tracts, also privately owned, that are protected by conservation easements. Nearby to the southeast, Anne Arundel County owns the Brewers Pond Natural Area, with frontage on the Severn River. Because of all the protected lands and the rich wetland environment in the area, Mandares Creek attracts more than its fair share of birds. It is reported that the Scenic Rivers Land Trust is interested in negotiating additional conservation easements in the vicinity of the sanctuary.

The property was donated to MOS in 1974 by Lt. Col. William G. Bodenstein and his wife, Otelia Francis Bodenstein. Lt. Col. Bodenstein served a term as the President of MOS from 1976 to 1978, and was greatly devoted to the MOS sanctuary program. The Bodensteins were both professional entomologists who worked at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. The donation of Mandares Creek followed several attempts by MOS and the Anne Arundel Bird Club to obtain a sanctuary within the county; all these previous attempts fell through for various reasons.

Most of the Mandares Creek Sanctuary consists of tidal marsh, once a thriving cattail marsh but now consisting mostly of phragmites. Only a small portion of the

sanctuary is walkable, namely a strip of deciduous woods and some understory hollies along River Road, and a small wooded area near the north boundary of the sanctuary, adjacent to private residences. There are no established foot-trails, but the small non-marsh portion can be easily walked as it has no significant shrub layer. See the accompanying map.

The outer reaches of the sanctuary on Maynadier Creek could productively be explored by kayak, canoe, or johnboat, but there is no put-in at the sanctuary, so launching would have to occur elsewhere. The nearest public launch site is downstream on the Severn at Jonas Green Park near the US Naval Academy. There is another launch site at Tucker Street in Annapolis, but this launch is open only to residents of the City of Annapolis.

It is noteworthy that, following MOS's acquisition of Mandares Creek, the Anne Arundel Bird Club successfully lobbied the Maryland General Assembly for special legislation that would provide an exemption from county and state real estate taxes for all the MOS sanctuaries. Only Somerset County refused to grant a tax exemption, so today, MOS pays taxes on Irish Grove Sanctuary near Crisfield, but it is the only sanctuary that is taxed – the others are all tax exempt because of the diligence and foresight of the Anne Arundel Bird Club. The MOS tax exemption is written into state law as Section § 7-217 of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Our little sanctuary in Anne Arundel County led to a great and lasting benefit for MOS for years to come. Thank you AABC!

**Conservation Value**:

Mandares Creek Sanctuary lies within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area and as such is protected under state law. The sanctuary is also part of a scenic buffer associated with the state's designation of the Severn River as a Scenic River.

In 1989, MOS placed Mandares Creek under a conservation easement held by the Maryland Environmental Trust and the Severn River Land Trust (now known as the Scenic Rivers Land Trust). Under the easement and with restrictions in the MOS deed, the sanctuary is protected in perpetuity from development. The easement states that Mandares Creek Sanctuary "contains a substantial part of one of the largest and least disturbed tidal marshes in the entire Severn River Watershed (source: Gems of the Severn Part I and Gems of the Severn Part II, by the Severn River Commission, 1988). The property is also adjacent to a bog containing several rare bog plants, and the waterfront area has been identified as a Historic Waterfowl Staging and Concentration area by the Maryland Natural Heritage Program."

The four acres of woodland at Mandares Creek MOS Sanctuary lie within an area classified by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as a Targeted Ecological Area; these are lands and watersheds identified by DNR as the most ecologically valuable areas in the State – the "Best of the Best" – with priority for conservation. In addition, the area is categorized by DNR as a Green Infrastructure Wildlife Hub; these are large, remaining blocks of forest and wetlands that support wildlife.

The sanctuary and surrounding lands are identified by DNR as important for Forest Interior Dwelling Species. The sanctuary is also in a Sensitive Species Project Review Area,

## Spotlight on: Mandares Creek Sanctuary

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meaning that any planned development or disruption of the habitat undergoes extra scrutiny by the state.

Most of the Mandares Creek Sanctuary is located in an area classified by MD DNR as Tier 2 – Extremely Significant for Biodiversity Conservation under their Bionet – Biological Diversity Conservation Network initiative. DNR awards Mandares Creek MOS Sanctuary

· 5 stars out of 5 for providing "Habitat Connectivity."

· 5 stars out of 5 for providing "Rare Species and Wildlife Habitat."

· 3 stars out of 5 for "Forests Important for Water Quality Protection."

· 3 stars out of 5 for "Coastal Community Resilience."

· 3 stars out of 5 for "Future Wetland Habitat."

· 4 stars out of 5 for "Proximity to Other Protected Lands."

**Why visit?**

The eBird hotspot for Mandares Creek Sanctuary lists only 59 species of birds as of April 2022, but the hotspot was not established until 2017. Linda Vitchcock, a member of the Anne Arundel Bird Club, has been loyally making periodic visits to document the sanctuary's birds. We encourage anyone who is in the area to visit and submit an eBird checklist eBird at https://ebird.org/hotspot/L5664738, especially during breeding season, with submission of eBird checklists through the BBA3 Atlas portal. Please feel free to include notes on other wildlife and on plants in your checklist comments.

A smattering of waterfowl occurs fall through spring: Canada Geese, Wood Ducks, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, and Common Mergansers. Wood Ducks are confirmed breeders in this Atlas block, and so birders should be on the lookout for evidence of breeding at or near the Sanctuary.

Double-crested Cormorants, Great Blue Herons and Green Herons can be seen at or from the sanctuary. Among gulls, only Ring-Bills and Laughing have been reported, but others (Herring, Great Black-backed) are likely, given eBird

reports from other hotspots on the Severn River. Terns might also be expected in the spring or summer. Tree Swallows and Purple Martins can be seen overhead or over the water. Other swallows would also be expected in this area, but have not yet been reported from the Sanctuary; see list of expected birds below.

Ospreys are common from spring through fall, and Red-shouldered Hawks are also present. Red-tailed Hawks are seen occasionally. Bald Eagles have not yet been reported, but are prevalent in the area, with a known nest nearby on Little Round Bay.

There is a good selection of woodpeckers: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (winter); the much-prized Red-headed; Red-bellied; Downy; Hairy; and Northern Flicker. Pileated has not yet been reported, but is likely to use the extensive forest across the road. Belted Kingfisher has been reported once, but is probably regular.

Wood Thrush. Photo by Dominic Nucifora.

Other species at Mandares Creek Sanctuary include small woodland or wetland birds: Eastern Phoebe, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, American and Fish Crows, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Ruby-crowned Kinglet (winter), White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher, Winter Wren (winter), Carolina Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird, Hermit Thrush (winter), Wood Thrush, American Robin, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Fox Sparrow (winter), White-throated Sparrow (winter), Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow (fall migration), Eastern Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-rumped Warbler (winter), Northern Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak and Indigo Bunting.

Based on eBird reports elsewhere along the Severn River as well as on the list of confirmed breeding birds from the First and Second Breeding Bird Atlases, some expected birds, possibly breeders, include American Black Duck; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Chimney Swift; Ruby-throated

## Spotlight on: Mandares Creek Sanctuary

Continued from Page 17

Hummingbird; American Woodcock; Great Horned and Barred Owls; flycatchers including Great Crested, Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, and Acadian; Red-eyed Vireo; Northern Rough-winged, Bank, and Barn Swallows; House Wren; Cedar Waxwing; Chipping Sparrow; Brown-headed Cowbird and both orioles (Baltimore and Orchard); locally breeding warblers such as Ovenbird, Worm-eating, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-and-White, Kentucky, Hooded, American Redstart, Northern Parula, and Pine as well as a variety of migrant warblers; and both tanagers (Summer and Scarlet). Birders can consider this a target list of birds to watch for at the sanctuary.

Birding Mandares Creek Sanctuary might take only half an hour or so. Other good birding spots in the area include Weems Creek and Jonas Creek Park, both downstream on the Severn near the Route 450 bridge. Upstream is the state-owned Severn Run Natural Environmental Area, with miles of trails through a string of wooded parcels in the watershed of the Severn, and the county-owned Bacon Ridge Natural Area, also with many miles of trails.

**Directions**

Mandares Creek MOS Sanctuary is located on the east side of River Road, just north of the house at #1308 River Road, Crownsville MD 21032. The general vicinity is on the western shore of the Severn River, between the Herald Harbour community to the north and Sherwood Forest community to the south. This area is northwest of Parole and Annapolis, and north of US Route 50. See accompanying map.

***Mandares Creek Location:*** Purple star in center of map shows location of Mandares Creek Sanctuary.

From US Route 50 near Annapolis, take Exit 23B for Crownsville, turning left at the traffic signal at the end of the ramp to go west on MD Route 450/West Street. In about 800 feet, Route 450 turns left, but do not turn – stay straight here to continue north on MD Route 178/Generals Highway. In 1.7 miles, bear right to go north on Old Generals Highway. In just 0.4 miles, turn right onto River Road. The Sanctuary will be on your right in 1.5 miles, south of the intersection with Maynadier Lane. Stop at the Garmin Brothers Sawmill on the left just past the Sanctuary and request permission to park in their lot during your visit.

***Mandares Creek Map***: Mandares Creek Sanctuary property boundaries shown in yellow. Orange dotted area is walkable (no trails) but will vary with tides and rains.

*About the author: Marcia Watson is the President of the Patuxent Bird Club and the secretary of the MOS Sanctuary Committee.*

## Hand-turned Bowl at Irish Grove

by Pat Valdata

The next time you're lounging in the living room at Irish Grove, take a look at the small wooden bowl on the table. This beautiful bowl was handmade, and given to the sanctuary, by John Styer of Cecil County, using a piece of cherrywood from Irish Grove.

John calls himself The Lathe-Meister, and he has been making turned wood objects for many years. He was a

regular at all the regional craft festivals and art shows until a fall two years ago left him paralyzed. John has lots of support from family, church, and community, but he's had to adapt to life in a wheelchair. Last year, he got a new lathe that he can operate from a seated position, so he is once again turning bowls, pens, and other items from a variety of wood, some locally sourced.

If you'd like to know more about John and his work, visit his website: https://lathe-meister.com/

## Sanctuary Committee Report

*By Marcia Watson, Sanctuary Committee Secretary*

*With Contributions by Paul Bystrak, Melissa Hensel, Bettye Maki, and Robin Todd*

The last few months have been quite busy for the Sanctuary Committee. Here are some brief updates.

**Carey Run Sanctuary (Garrett County)**

Sanctuary Manager Chuck Hager reports that he has granted permission to film a segment of Outdoors MD, the popular MD Public Television Show, at Carey Run. The segment will focus on the history of the Old Braddock Road that passes through Carey Run. Years ago, as an Eagle Scout project, Chuck's son T.C. created a nature trail and placed interpretive signage on the Old Braddock Road.

Our continuing partnership with Trout Unlimited led to a second tree planting event at Carey Run (the first occurred in October 2021). On April 9, about 200 Red Spruce seedlings were planted at the north end of the fields, along the boundary line, where there is an intermittent stream. The planting took place amidst snow squalls. Melissa Hensel reported that Trout Unlimited recruited Americorps members from Frostburg State University and an FSU wildlife club member for two hours of help. Six volunteers continued for additional hours to fill the target area,

leaving the 4-wheeler track open. Chuck determined that the area will no longer be mowed as it would be impossible to mow around all the seedlings. We'll try to keep a path open (the 4-wheeler trail) for hiking.

Unfortunately, there is also bad news to report on Carey Run. Last fall, we noticed Hemlock Wooly Adelgids on some of the hemlocks; closer inspection over the winter and early spring revealed that most of the hemlocks are infested. Hemlock Wooly Adelgids (HWA) are an exotic insect, originally from Japan, that suck on hemlocks twigs and leaves, causing defoliation and eventual death. The hemlock groves at Carey Run cover about 30 acres and are a significant habitat feature, hosting breeding birds such as Hermit Thrush, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, and others. It would be devastating to lose the hemlock forests at Carey Run; in addition to their wildlife value, the hemlocks are a very beautiful feature of the landscape. In February, the Sanctuary Committee met with Dr. Mike Raupp, Professor Emeritus from the University of Maryland College Park. Mike has assisted organizations such as the National Arboretum and Longwood Gardens, as well as the MD Department of Natural Resources and the US Department of Agriculture, to develop management plans for adelgid infestations. Based on Mike's advice, the Sanctuary Committee has arranged for a professional arborist to visit Carey Run in late April to help us start to develop a plan to address the adelgids. For a very good overview of the impact of HWA on hemlock forests and birds, see "'Birds of Hemlock Forests," an informative flier prepared by the Allegheny Forest Health Cooperative and available online through the Roger Tory Peterson Institute website at https://archive.rtpi.org/wp-content/uploads/

2020/08/Birds-HWA.pdf.

**Irish Grove Sanctuary (Somerset County)**

A successful work weekend was held at Irish Grove the weekend of April 1st-3rd. This was a comeback – the first full work weekend held at Irish Grove since fall 2019. Work weekends were suspended at Irish Grove in the interim because of the Covid pandemic. We did have a one-day workday at Irish Grove last November, but this time people appreciated the opportunity to once again stay in the house or camp on the lawn, and to share meals and camaraderie as we cleaned up the Sanctuary. We had an excellent turnout of 24 volunteers:

Jen Barnes, Paul Bystrak, Brent Byers, Mary Byers, Trish Cope, Jeff Effinger, Elaine's friend Kim, Fred Fallon, Jane Fallon, Ron Griffin, Mary Huebner, Ellen Lawler, John McKitterick, Marylee Ross, Gene Scarpulla, Elaine Scribner, Robin Todd, Pat Valdata, Steve Wagner, Mike Walsh, Marcia Watson, Dave Webb, Bobbie Wells, Bob Zerbe

## Sanctuary Committee Report

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Work weekend crew having lunch on the lawn at Irish Grove. Photo by Marcia Watson

The work weekend crew performed routine trail maintenance, repaired bridges and boardwalks, painted the exterior of the pole barn/screened picnic enclosure, trimmed trees, inventoried the bluebird boxes, installed new hardware on the latrines, put in some native plants in the garden alongside the house, reconstructed the outdoor shower stall, did some minor repairs inside the house, installed new curtains in the front parlor/museum room, and performed routine house cleaning. There was ample time for birding and enjoying the beauty of Irish Grove. Two special species observed over the weekend were Yellow Rail and Short-eared Owl. Willets and TreeSwallows were newly arrived.

In March, MOS received an inquiry from a citizen who was interested in establishing a small oyster aquaculture facility near the mouth of East Creek. Oyster aquaculture operations are regulated by the MD Department of Natural Resources, and MOS was not being asked to approve her plan. She was reaching out in neighborly fashion to ask if MOS would have any objection to her plan. The Sanctuary Committee's only concern was for the person's personal safety – the mouth of East Creek is exposed to high tides and waves and has a bottom filled with deep mud, tree stumps, and other obstructions. However, after further examination of the site, she determined that the East Creek location would not be sheltered enough to provide a good place for the floating oyster cages. She is looking for an alternate site. Historically, the creeks around Irish Grove hosted a thriving oyster fishery and parts of Irish Grove Sanctuary were formerly owned by the A.J. Tull Oyster Company. However, the old oyster beds have been inactive for many years, as elsewhere in the Chesapeake. As more interest grows in oyster aquaculture and restoration, Irish Grove may receive more inquiries in the future.

We have a new Barn Owl nest box project at Irish Grove. Under the leadership of Paul Bystrak, three new Barn Owl nest boxes were placed in the marshes at Irish Grove during February and March. The boxes were constructed by Jeff Effinger using plans provided by Andy Brown, who recently retired as a naturalist with Calvert County Parks. Andy has years of experience with Barn Owl conservation in Southern Maryland, and is now state coordinator for Barn Owl conservation under the auspices of the Maryland

Installation of one of the new Barn Owl boxes at Irish Grove. Left to right: Mark Herring, Jeff Effinger, Brent Byers, Marylee Ross. Photo by Paul Bystrak.

Bird Conservation Partnership and the MD Department of Natural Resources. The boxes are quite hefty and bulky and the installation in marshland is no small feat and required some trial and error. The Sanctuary Committee is grateful for the assistance of Chris Snow (Stewardship Coordinator, Monie Bay National Estuarine Reserve), Mark Herring (Park Ranger at Janes Island State Park), Melissa Boyle Acuti (Chief of Interpretation, MD State Parks) and Jennifer Brown-Whale (Environmental Educator from Howard County), who volunteered their time and muscle to help install the boxes. Sanctuary Committee members Jeff Effinger, Robin Todd and Brent Byers also assisted with installation. Pat and Bob Valdata helped to assemble materials and equipment, and Marylee Ross provided food to feed the hungry crew on the three separate installation days. Paul Bystrak and Marylee Ross will be monitoring the boxes and gathering data on any nesting that occurs.

We are happy to report that Dr. George Hochmuth has been named a Life Member of MOS. Yellowthroat readers will recall that last November, Irish Grove hosted a special

## Sanctuary Committee Report

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visit by George, who is an Emeritus Professor of Soil Science at the University of Florida. In the 1920's, George's grandfather had owned a farm on the north end of what is now Irish Grove Sanctuary, and in November, George and his daughter Melissa, along with an uncle, visited Irish Grove. An expedition was mounted to escort George and Melissa to the site of their grandfather's home. The Sanctuary Committee looks forward to a long association with this special descendant of Irish Grove.

**Mill Creek Sanctuary (Talbot County)**

Bettye Maki, President of the Talbot chapter of MOS, reports that their chapter hosted a work day at MIll Creek on Saturday, March 19th. The major focus of that work day was meant to be the re-construction of a long bridge over a deep ravine; however, the needed long lumber pieces were unavailable at any of the lumber yards, and so that work has been postponed. Instead, the 16 volunteers focused on other tasks. Twelve people divided into three groups to mark and clear three pathways on the property. Jeff Effinger, Sanctuary Manager, laid out a new pathway through the center of the main tract. The trails are now marked by different colored streamers. In addition, a crew marked the sanctuary boundaries with blue paint blazes. Four men installed the posts for new sign boards for the parking area; the sign boards will be added at a later date, after the concrete hardens.

Wayne Bell has volunteered to draw up a color-coded map of the trails. A laminated version of the map will be installed in the information kiosk at the parking area.

During a lunch of take-out sandwiches, Jeff Effinger, Wayne Bell, and Terry Allen gave some background information on this sanctuary. The Talbot Chapter thanks Robin Todd for driving down from Howard County to join in the workday.

**Research**

The MOS Sanctuaries continue to host several research projects. Sam Droege, a biologist with the Eastern Ecological Science Center at Patuxent Research Refuge (aka "The Bee Guy"), is periodically visiting Mill Creek Sanctuary to conduct surveys of native bee species. Harford County Bird Club member Dave Webb, who is also a member of the MD Entomological Society, is conducting a series of nocturnal insect surveys at Myrtle Simons Pelot Sanctuary (Caroline County), the Robbins Sanctuary at Red Run (Garrett County), and Irish Grove (Somerset County). Dr. Henry Leggett, a researcher with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, is conducting a second year of water temperature monitoring of the Gravelly Branch stream that flows through Pelot Sanctuary in Caroline County; Dr. Leggett's research is focused on identifying habitat that can support migratory fish in the Choptank River and Tuckahoe Creek systems. Last year's monitoring showed that the Pelot and Tuckahoe State Park provided the best habitat among the various study sites.

Nocturnal Insect Survey Set-up. Insects are attracted to the lights and land on the sheet suspended over a frame, where they can be studied and photographed. Photo by Dave Webb at Robbins Sanctuary.

## In Memoriam: Bob Ringler

With deep sadness, we report the death of Bob Ringler on February 15, 2022. Bob was a giant of a man in the Maryland birding community. The importance of Bob's contributions to our knowledge of birds in Maryland and the influence of his leadership within the Maryland Ornithological Society cannot be overstated. His personal birding covered the entire state, and his knowledge is reflected in birding activities in every corner of Maryland. Many of our favorite birding spots were pioneered by Bob.

Bob joined MOS in 1976 and quickly became a keystone of the organization. Initially Bob was a member of the Baltimore Bird Club, then later moved to Eldersburg and became a member of the Carroll County Bird Club. About a year ago, he moved to Queen Anne's County, where there is no local MOS chapter, but he continued his

## In Memoriam: Bob Ringler

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birding activities and created a bird club in the community where he lived.

Over the years Bob held many leadership positions within MOS. To name just a few:

·President of MOS, 1988-1989

·President of the Baltimore Bird Club, 1983-1986

·President of the Carroll County Bird Club, 1994-1995

·Assistant or Associate Editor of *Maryland Birdlife,*1979-2013

·Considered to be one of the founders of the Breeding Bird Atlas project; served on the Steering Committee for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Atlases of the Breeding Birds of Maryland; also Worcester County Coordinator and Baltimore County Co-Coordinator for the 1st Atlas; Carroll County Coordinator for the 2nd Atlas; Somerset County Coordinator for the 3rd Atlas; wrote five species accounts for the 1st Atlas and one for the 2nd Atlas.

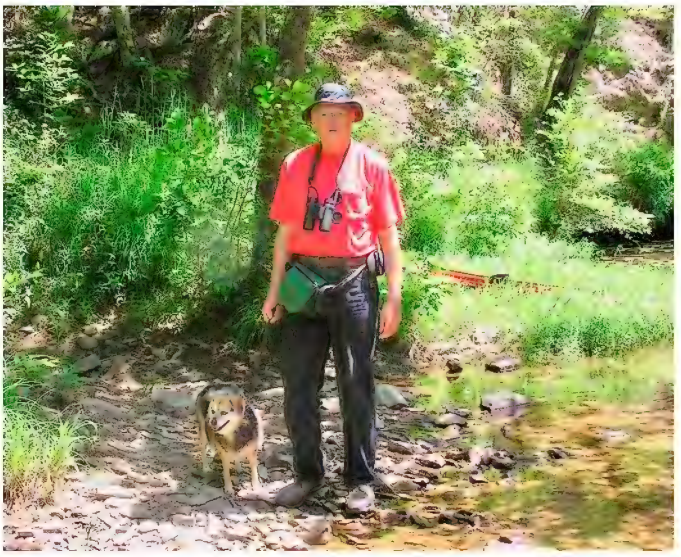
·Compiler and editor of "The Season" report in *Maryland Birdlife*, 1977-1991 and 1999-2005. "The Season" was a quarterly report on bird distribution and notable occurrences for each season of the year, and was a prominent recurring feature in every issue of the journal from 1946 until 2005.

·Member of numerous other committees and projects, including the Nest Records Committee and the Collections Committee.

Bob was a world traveler, and starting in the 1970s, organized and led birding tours to numerous destinations across the US and overseas. He is probably best remembered for his many tours to Costa Rica; we have no record of how many times he visited that country, but it must have been dozens of times.

From about 1983 through 1991, Bob was the leader and organizer of the weekly MOS bird survey trips to Hart-Miller Island; these trips were undertaken through an agreement between MOS and the Baltimore Port Authority as part of the wildlife monitoring required for the construction of the Hart-Miller Island Dredged Material Containment Facility. But Bob's experience in birding Hart-Miller spans a much longer time period. His eBird lists at Hart Miller pre-date the start of construction there, and he would get himself to the island by renting a rowboat at a nearby dock. He continued to visit Hart-Miller on a regular basis through the present,and accumulated a list of 262 species that he observed there.

Bob was often accompanied on field trips and bird walks by his dogs Cindy and Skippy. Skippy, in particular, no doubt logged more miles at Hart-Miller than any other canine.



Bob and Skippy. Photo by Debbie Terry.

Bob happily gave slide presentations and led field trips all around the state. He was a fixture at the annual MOS Convention, where his tall form towered over all the other birders at the Convention's Wine & Cheese Social, and his laugh would ring out over the crowd while he hoisted a beverage and told one of his many dry-humor birding anecdotes. Bob traditionally led the Tally Rally at the end of every Convention, and as the bird reports were called out, Bob would give an interesting running commentary on historical changes in Maryland's birdlife.

Before we had eBird, we had Bob Ringler. Bob is best remembered for his encyclopedic knowledge of bird distribution and populations in Maryland and DC. He was equally known as a meticulous record-keeper and took the trouble to enter every one of his sightings into eBird, going back through his historical records to do so. Over decades, he maintained his own database – a simple Excel spreadsheet – that held not only his own sightings but also those of other birders, as reported to the MD Osprey list-serve and its later incarnation, the MDBirding Google Group, as well as to the Voice of the Naturalist, other Rare Bird Reports, and reports that came to him personally by email, letter, text message or possibly by carrier pigeon. By 2020, Bob's database held over 88,000 observations. Bob was, quite simply, the data hub for day-to-day Maryland bird reports. But, he held formidable knowledge even without accessing his computer. He apparently carried in his head mental maps of the distribution of Maryland birds, and working from memory, could provide detailed predictions on when to expect certain birds to show up in certain places, or could give a summary of changes in the distribution or population size of Maryland birds over time.

## In Memoriam: Bob Ringler

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Bob's extensive knowledge of the birds of Maryland culminated in Bob serving as lead author for the Third Edition of the *Field List of the Birds of Maryland*, aka *The Yellowbook*, published by MOS in 1996. Bob was also the Technical Editor for the *Birds of Maryland, Delaware, and the District of Columbia*, authored by Bruce Beehler and published in 2019. Bob also authored numerous articles on notable bird sightings in *Maryland Birdlife* and in other regional publications.

Bob's interests didn't stop at birds. He was also extremely knowledgeable about butterflies and native plants, and was an excellent all-around naturalist. He was among the top submitters of records to the Maryland Biodiversity Project, and his submissions spanned the entire state and numerous forms: birds, butterflies, bees and other insects, plants, amphibia, reptiles, and more.

Bob with Bill Hubick from the Maryland Biodiversity Project at the project's Bioblitz at the Howard County Conservancy BioBlitz. They both had just gotten their lifer Monkey Slug Caterpillars. Photo by Bill Hubick.

Bob was well-liked because of his kindness and patience. For example, he always made sure that all participants on a field trip had a chance to see every bird. No bird, and no birder, were unworthy of his attention. He would courteously answer inquiries about Maryland birds from anyone. And yet, Bob was a man of few words, especially concerning his own feats of birding prowess.

Bob was born in Baltimore in January 14, 1946, the only child of the late Julia Clara and Jackson F. Ringler. As a youngster, he was introduced to birding by his father, and began practicing his impeccable note-taking under his father's guidance. He was also active in Cub Scouts and Little League Baseball, and enjoyed watching Sunday football games with family and friends. After graduating from Severna Park High School, Bob went on to receive his Bachelor's degree from Drexel University. His first job was working for the DuPont Company in Seaford, Delaware, followed by a move to Swanson Foods in Salisbury, Maryland. He was later employed as an analytical chemist for the Maryland Department of Health and Hygiene in Annapolis, where he conducted analyses of water quality, and retired from that position several years ago.

Bob was 76 years old when he passed away, having been hospitalized for a few weeks prior to his passing. Bob is survived by his cousins: Faith Ringler-Stevinson and husband Walter of Maryland; Jay Anthony of Florida: Patrick Buckley and wife Betty of Minnesota; David Buckley and wife Nancy of Iowa; Paul Buckley and wife Connie of Iowa; and Sharon Edmunds of Florida. Also surviving are his great nieces: Adrienne Dilaimy and husband Fabian of Maryland; Melanie Brown and husband John of Maryland; and Roxy Anthony of Maryland. Cards and sympathy notes may be sent to his family in care of Bob's cousin Faith Ringler-Stevinson, 106 Harmony Way, Centreville, MD 21617.

You may view Bob's obituary as well as a slideshow of photos at https://www.fhnfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Robert-Ringler/#!/Obituary.

Please send memorial gifts in Bob's memory to:

·The Maryland Biodiversity Project. Donations may be made online at https://www.marylandbiodiversity.com or checks may be sent to Maryland Biodiversity Project, c/o Jim Brighton, 117 Regulator Drive N, Cambridge, MD 21613. OR:

·The Maryland Ornithological Society, either donations to the Society in general or specifically to the MD-DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project. Donations may be made online at https://mdbirds.org or checks may be sent to the Maryland Ornithological Society, c/o Carol Daugherty, Treasurer, 11925 Oden Ct., Rockville, MD 20852

*This memorial was written by Marcia Watson with ample assistance by Phil Davis. A similar version appeared earlier in the Patuxent Bird Club newsletter. Phil has compiled an extensive set of information about Bob from many sources, including numerous personal recollections submitted to the MDBirding Google Group. A memorial webpage is being planned to display all of the submitted recollections, photos, and other materials.*

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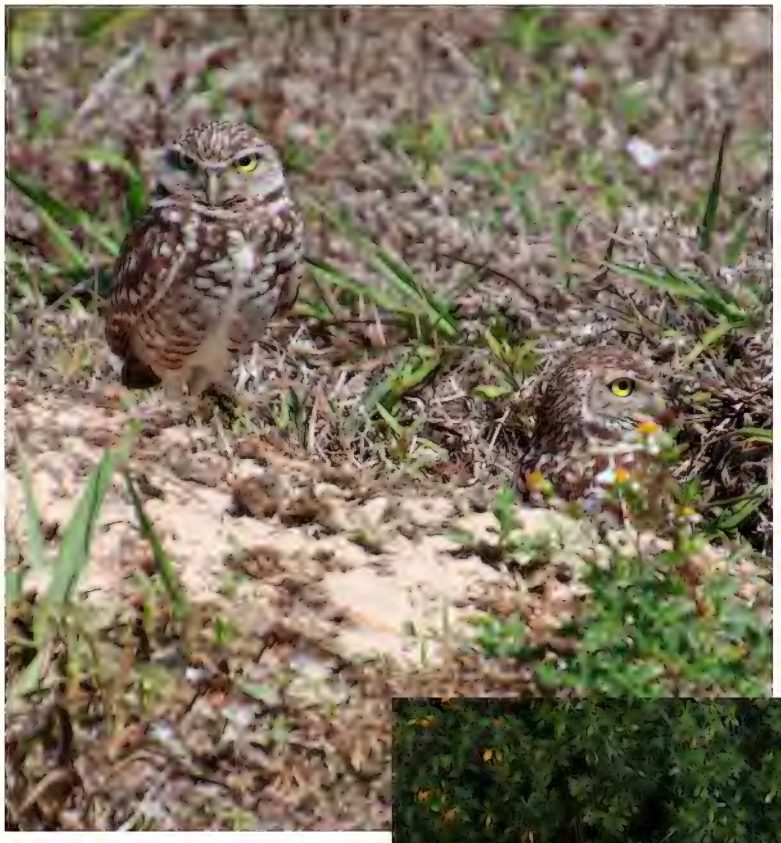
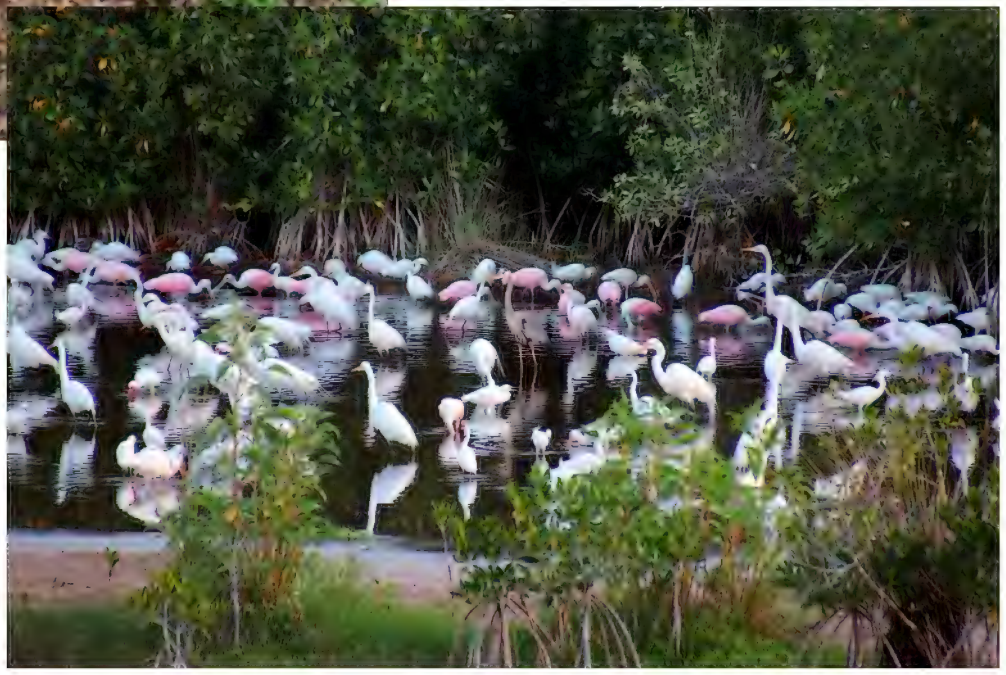
# CHAPTER CHATTER

by Jean Wheeler

## ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

*Gerald Winegrad* and his wife *Carol Swan* reside on Oyster Creek. They travel to Naples, Florida, around Thanksgiving and again mid -March to visit their daughter and three grandkids. Gerald has submitted several of Carol's outstanding photos for the enjoyment of Yellowthroat readers, including a photo of ABA's 2022 Bird of the Year -Burrowing Owl! Gerald writes "We do a lot of birding and alligator searching, drives, hikes, and viewing. The Marsh Trail at 10,000 Islands NWR is a must with an observation tower. If you go at sunrise, you will see thousands of waterbirds leaving their mangrove roosts to furiously feed in the lagoons. Wood Storks fly by as do Spoonbills and Bald Eagles, and there are many, many egrets and herons, Coots, Moorhens, Blue-winged Teal, Brown Pelicans, a few Reddish Egrets and sometimes White Pelicans. Often, three large alligators are sunning in the morning warmth. A Limpkin has been feeding in the shallows at a nearby fancy hotel. We have had Swallow-tailed Kites overhead since we arrived on March 13, and one was five doors down working insects around a tree, a truly elegant bird. We saw the Burrowing Owls of Marco Island again and Gopher Tortoises, too. And, a special treat on Marco was six Magnificent Frigatebirds doing aerial acrobatics at low elevation as we had a picnic lunch. Saw a bunch of Black Skimmers, too. Of note, the invasive Collared Dove sounds like a donkey braying."





Above

Burrowing Owl-

Photo by Carol Swann

Right

Roseate Spoonbills in Mixed Flock, Marsh Trail, Florida.

Photo by Carol Swann

*Barbara Johnson* writes: "After I moved with my husband Barry to Chattanooga, TN in 2019, my Annapolis friend Ann and I planned a spring 2020 drive along the Natchez Trace Parkway. Covid-19 thwarted us until this year. At 11AM on February 19, I found Ann at the Nashville Airport, and we headed straight to the famed Loveless Cafe at the gateway to the Trace for sustenance at the outset of our 4-day trip.

"First, a bit about the Natchez Trace Parkway: A 444-mile paved road beginning just south of Nashville and coursing seamlessly through Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi, the Trace approximates an ancient trail carved first by animals, then Native Americans, and later, boatmen walking home north after floating their goods to southern ports via the Mississippi River. The National Park Service (NPS) administers the parkway. Federal land occupies 400+feet on either side of the parkway, for a total of 52,000 square miles. A popular destination for cyclists and hikers, the road meanders through various ecosystems, predominantly upland forest, and forested wetlands, with occasional fields and lakes. Cypress swamps and Spanish moss-draped live oaks line the southernmost stretch. With few entrances and very little civilization visible along its course, the Trace is a green gem of a road, like none other in the country.

"At the outset let me say that Ann, while the most engaging and curious travel companion, is neither birder nor hiker. Suffice to say that my bird list reflects sightings from the car (and I did the driving) or short forays on our many stops. I counted only 49 species (all of which can be seen in Maryland). I report this trip more to extol the wonders of the Natchez Trace Parkway, which would indeed be a great place to bird, while taking in the abundant scenery and history that the parkway offers.

"That said, the car birding was fun. We had more than a few Pileated Woodpecker flyovers (which will impress even a non-birder), and we saw over 100 Wild Turkeys along the roadsides. The top speed limit on the parkway is 50 MPH, and there was little traffic, so I was often able to slow down to peer into the alluring habitat.

"The Parkway's history is well-told in signage, NPS maps, and T.&T. Jacksons' *Guide to the Natchez Trace Parkway.* There are sites significant to Native Americans, Spanish explorers, and the Civil War. Meriwether Lewis is memorialized near the inn where his life ended tragically. We left pavement to drive graveled sections of the"Old Trace", walked trails to waterfalls and boardwalks through sloughs, and toured the excellent National Parkway Visitors Center. We stopped at several mounds built by ancestors of the Natchez, Choctaw and Chickasaw tribespeople. My favorite, Emerald Mound near Natchez, is the 2nd-largest Mississippian mound in the country. Built basket-by-basketload between 1250 and 1600 CE, this astonishing 8-acre earthwork is still used in tribal ceremonies and is open to the public. I challenge anyone to climb to the vast center and lie face up in the grass for a time without being affected (pre-chigger season, of course).

"The Trace offers numerous campsites, but we bunked in nearby towns. Muscle Shoals, along the Tennessee River, is home to famous recording studios that offer tours (just not on Sunday, our day there).

"In Tupelo we awoke to rain. Having a short leg ahead of us, we decided to take in the Elvis Presley Birthplace, a humble contrast to the opulent Graceland in Memphis. Never huge Elvis fans, Ann and I arrived with the lowest of expectations, but left, quite honestly, feeling as if we'd had a religious experience. My details would run on way too long, but if you're there, just go. Take the whole tour. You'll see.

"Jackson was just a stopover on our third night, but we ended our drive in the utterly charming town of Natchez. Set on high bluffs overlooking the Mississippi, Natchez was once the wealthiest per capita city in the country ("when cotton was king"), and it shows in the many antebellum homes in various states of repair. Several of the mansions, city homes of plantation owners, are open for tours. We explored the dazzling Longwood, the largest octagonal house in the US. Its construction was halted by the Civil War and the story of its owner, the colorfully-named cotton baron Haller Nutt, is a vivid example of the fate of the vast fortunes built upon human suffering.

I long to return to the Natchez Trace when the Neotropical migrants are coming through, with (no disrespect to my beloved Ann) a fellow birder along for the ride!)" *Barbara Johnson*

**CECIL COUNTY**

The Cecil Bird Club is digging itself out of the latest COVID-19 variant with the help of long time member *Sean McCandless*. Field trips are back. Long known as an expert on gull identification, Sean led a hardy group of about 15 individuals on an extremely blustery day to North East Community Park for a study of the resident gulls there on February 19th. This became the first Cecil Bird Club field trip since last summer. He followed that up two weeks later with a trip to Perryville Community Park for wintering waterfowl. Eleven species of ducks were found as well as the Tundra Swans which hang out there all winter. One Horned Grebe put in an appearance as well. Mid March found Sean at Blackwater NWR, with the grand finale being the Snowy Owl in Cambridge. Thanks much Sean for kick-starting the club's field trip schedule.

As we turn to spring, the Cecil Club is involved in the monitoring of not one, not two, but now three sites with nest boxes. Besides the long term running project at the Woodland Reserve near Port Deposit, which used to be a superfund site and

the nest boxes at Turkey Point in Elk Neck State Park, a third park has been added as of last year. This is Conowingo Park, which is just below the Conowingo Dam opposite Fisherman's Park, known for wintering Bald Eagles. Friends of Cecil County Parks and Recreation is responsible for these boxes and taking the lead in their monitoring. Time to get those boxes cleaned out and scrubbed for the upcoming season.

Club President and self proclaimed travel agent *Maryanne Dolan* has put together a string of upcoming birding trips. First up is Panama at the Canopy Family resorts at the end of April. She previewed this region last year. Both she and club member *Ken Drier* will venture down there, hoping for a Sunbittern. Stay tuned for the follow-up on this next time.

*Ken Drier*

## HARFORD COUNTY

After two years of no travel, *Dennis Kirkwood* from the Harford Bird Club got back on a plane to visit Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. The tour was organized and led by Rockjumper Birding Tours. *Dave Webb* joined Dennis in Puerto Rico and *Bob Murphy* replaced Dave in the Dominican Republic. Both islands are known for their bird, especially the endemics and near endemics. Each location also boasts1-3 endemic families of birds. In four days of birding Puerto Rico, all endemics and near endemics were seen, including the Puerto Rican Tanager, an endemic monotypic family, and the Puerto Rican Parrot, of which there are roughly 200 alive in the wild. Fortunately a robust captive breeding program is bringing this native Amazon back from the brink of extinction.

Key West Quail Dove

Photo by Dennis Kirkwood

The Dominican Republic, only 100 milles from Puerto Rico, shares the island of Hispaniola with the country of Haiti.It is best known in the states for its beaches and resorts on the eastern end of the country.The endemic birds are mostly in the mountains close to the Haitian border.Some of the birding took place right on the border which was obvious due to the deforestation in Haiti versus the intact forest of DR.In eight days of birding, all but one of the 28 endemics were found.The birding was more rigorous as the road system made access more difficult. The Bay-breasted Cuckoo presented the biggest challenge as almost one day was spent just trying to locate this notorious skulker. Dennis recommends both islands as great opportunities to bird the tropics with direct flights to both from Baltimore. *Dennis Kirkwood*

### MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The two travelers from Montgomery who wrote of their winter adventures both told of Florida, obviously the location of choice for many birders this year. A March eBird posting revealed to *Lydia* and *Paul Schindler*, who migrate to a winter roost near Saint Augustine, that their friend and fellow club member *Jo Cox* was visiting St. Augustine.The two birders arranged to spend a morning at a local favorite, a water management tract. There they found over 50 species -- all the herons and egrets, both Ibis, Anhingas, Limpkins, Wood Storks, American Bittern, King Rails, 3 Soras in view at once, heard-only Sandhill Cranes, singing (and seen) Marsh Wrens, hundreds of Tree Swallows (plus one Barn), and a prettily posed female Painted Bunting.

And *Bruce Beehler*, on the opposite side of Florida, wrote:"Periodically, our family takes a winter vacation, staying at 'Tween Waters Resort on Captiva Island, a spot where luminaries such as Anne Morrow Lindbergh and Theodore Roosevelt and J.N. "Ding" Darling stayed in earlier centuries... It remains a great place to commune with Nature--early mornings with

Manatees in knee-deep water at the edge of the mangroves, walks on the Gulf Shore with flocks of Red Knots and Black-bellied Plovers. Other mornings start with a bike ride to Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge on adjacent Sanibel Island -- a 20-minute ride from Captiva. There one is entertained by flocks of American White Pelicans, White Ibis, mixed flocks of egrets and herons, and sunning Anhingas. Repeated efforts to locate a Mangrove Cuckoo proved fruitless, but that's birding!" *Chris Wright*

Above: Yellow-crowned Night Heron

Photo by Bruce Beehler

Right:

Anhinga

Photo by Bruce Beehler

Left:

Reddish Egret

Photo by Bruce Beehler

**An early-2022 birding visit to Panama's Canopy gems**

*Mike Bowen* wrote that the last time he was in Panama was in 2005, on an ABA tour coordinated with Raul Arias, the Panamanian businessman and naturalist who bought the iconic Canopy Tower, once a USAF radar installation, and went on to build the Canopy Lodge in a hilly valley near his country home west of Panama City. Both sites are now primary attractions for birders visiting Panama, including Mike and *Anne Cianni*, who visited for 10 days in February 2022.

"Welcome help from a local MD birder enabled us to navigate the somewhat arcane on-line"affidavit" required of the Republic of Panama's health department for visitors to the country, and it took a little time to sort out the name Delta Airlines had on record for Mike, who rejoices in three given names – a gift from his Welsh parents – so that we could actually take off from Baltimore. But, by the time Mike and Anne eventually arrived in Panama, all was smooth and the birds certainly cooperated.

"Views from the roof of the Canopy Tower at dawn introduced us to Keel-billed Toucans and Yellow-headed Caracaras, together with Palm Tanagers and (surprisingly common) Bay-breasted and Tennessee Warblers. Not forgetting well-named Howler Monkeys and long-tailed Geoffroy's Tamarins. An exciting morning boat trip up into the Panama Canal put us into close contact with gigantic LPG boats and awesomely huge container ships and allowed us to see at close range Snail Kites, Gray-breasted Martins, and a gorgeous American Pygmy Kingfisher. One island in Lake Gatun – an artificial lake created during construction of the Panama Canal 120 years ago -- afforded us a close view of a male Prothonotary Warbler -- who knows, maybe one slated to turn up at Montgomery County's Pennyfield Lock in May!!

Keel-billed Toucan

Photo by Anne Cianni

"We visited the famous"Pipeline Road" near Gamboa and came away with fabulous memories of a Great Potoo. By the time we were ready to move on to the Canopy Lodge we were up to our ears in new bird species – Trogons, Motmots, etc. etc., and eager to find new birds in the higher elevations around the lodge. One of Canopy Lodge's principal attractions is the fruit feeder arrangement, which can be seen worldwide on a live camera link. This didn't disappoint, and we spent many spare minutes over four days, sitting and watching small birds such as Crimson-backed Tanagers, Blue-gray Tanagers, Buff-throated Saltators, and Yellow-crowned Euphonias were sometime crowded out by much larger and equally impressive giants such as Chestnut-headed Oropendolas, Gray-cowled Wood-rails, and Gray-headed Chachalacas. The nearby stream had Sunbittern, wintering Louisiana and Northern Waterthrushes, and (non-migratory) Buff-rumped Warbler.

One day, our expedition took us to the Pacific coast where the Arias family has a "beach place" called Villa Denise." Our dip in the ocean (warm but rough) was accompanied overhead by multiple Magnificent Frigatebirds, while Sanderlings and a lone Whimbrel walked the beach. On our way to the coast we had birded low-elevation fields where Fork-tailed Flycatchers were ridiculously common.Later trips around the Anton Valley, where Canopy Lodge is located, gave us wintering Summer Tanagers, a gorgeous Rufous-crested Coquette and a family of Spectacled Owls.

"Our only regret is that we did not have the time to visit the"other" Canopy property – the Canopy Camp – which is in the extreme East of the country, and which has some different and exceptional bird species such as Harpy Eagle. Maybe next time." *Mike Bowen*

**PATUXENT BIRD CLUB** **Patuxent Bird Club is on Facebook!**

*Matt Felperin*, who serves on the Patuxent Bird Club's Board of Directors, has set up a Facebook page for Patuxent Bird Club!

You can find the page athttps://www.facebook.com/groups/228557249461552/

The site is private, which means you have to request permission to join, but just click the"Join Group" link and a message will go to Matt, who will add you to the page. Matt advises that the private setting helps cut down on spam postings.

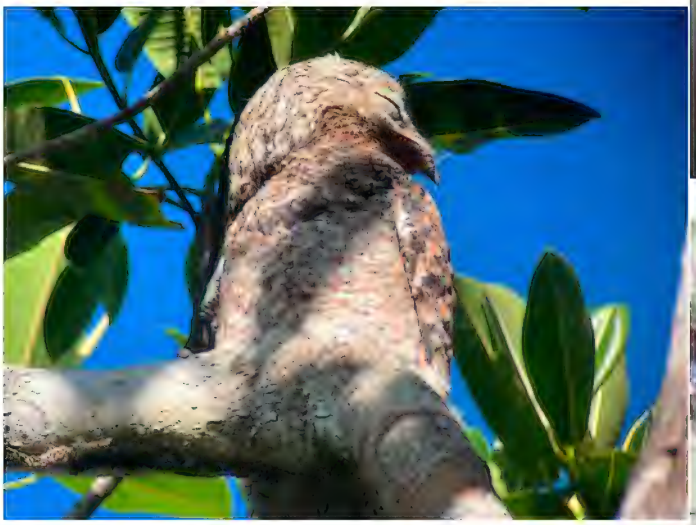
Matt is looking for a person to co-administer the site with him, so if interested, please drop Matt a line at mfelperin@nvrpa.org. You need not be a member of Patuxent Bird Club to help out. Many thanks to Matt for his efforts in setting up the Facebook page.

**A gallery of Panama Birds by Anne Cianni**

Above: Rufous-crested Coquette

Above: Black-throated Trogon

Right: Spectacled Owl



Above: Great Potoo.

Right: Crimson -backed Tanager

**Matt Felperin Featured in Washington Post**

Speaking of Matt Felperin, this Board Member from Patuxent Bird Club was featured in a Washington Post article about the Snowy Owl that visited Union Station in DC in January. Matt was interviewed for the article, and his photos were used as illustrations. If you missed the article, you can catch it here: https://wapo.st/3HnJDG9 (this link will work even if you don't have a paid subscription to the Post). (Photo by Matt Felperin, 1/6/22, Macaulay Library ML403273461)

**Greg Kearns and Dave Brinker Featured in New Episode of Outdoors Maryland**

The popular PBS TV show *Outdoors Maryland* has aired a new episode called"The Long Flight" that features the migration tracking research being conducted by *Greg Kearns*, biologist for Prince George's County Parks, and Dave Brinker, DNR biologist. The segment starts with Greg Kearns' research on Sora at Jug Bay Natural Area in Prince George's County and shows how this is just part of a network of sites that are tracking bird migration. The story is the third segment of the *Outdoors Maryland* show, Season 33, Episode 6. If you missed it on TV, you can catch it online at https://video.mpt.tv/video/episode-3306-qeecwx/.

*Marcia Watson*

**TALBOT COUNTY**

The Talbot Chapter has resumed our in- person monthly meetings and weekly field trips. We are proud to have completed three projects over the last few months. If you have not visited Pickering Creek Audubon Center recently you should plan a visit soon,, as the TCBC has donated money to build a new viewing platform overlooking a pond. Another large platform overlooking a large meadow has been built by Pickering Creek ,aided by donations in honor of our long time friend and club member Les Roslund. The Marengo Woods MOS Sanctuary parking area has been completed. Previously, there was no place to park so visiting was limited to have the courage to park in a farmer's field driveway. Several members of the TCBC cleared the area of shrubs, small trees, etc. A gravel parking lot is now available.

Our last project took place March 19 at the Mill Creek MOS Sanctuary. Twelve members and one guest marked and cleared 3 paths through the sanctuary while three members erected the posts that will hold the new sanctuary sign. A lunch followed with background information about this sanctuary given by *Jeff Effinger,Terry Allen,* and *Wayne Bell*. It was a beautiful day with good comrades.

Our group has started traveling again, *Bettye Maki* to Costa Rica and *Wayne Bell* to Egypt, and several others are planning trips in the near future.

*Bettye Maki*

**TRI-COUNTY**

New club member *Deshirl Rankins* recently had a three falcon day on a Delmarva birding weekend trip to an"amazing" private property on Newport Bay in Worcester County. Deshirl writes "While we were waiting & standing prior to going through the property gates, a Peregrine Falcon not far from where we were standing goes flying by us with a bird in its talons (meal)! Then, while on the property in a tree next to a house, we saw an American Kestrel!!! As we are looking at the Kestrel, a Merlin flies in!!! We saw a number of Eastern Meadowlarks, Bluebirds & White Pelicans!." After a number of DMV birding trips to the property, Deshirl is yet to see the pair of Barn Owls that nest in one of the barns, but she is still hoping.
*Ellen Lawler*

Above: Displaying Hooded Mergansers

Below: Male and Female Buffleheads

Both Photos by Carol Swann

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## Come to the 2022 MOS Convention!

The MOS Annual Convention will be held May 20 - 22, 2022 in Solomons, MD at the Solomons Inn Resort and Marina. Registration is open until May 3rd. Field trip sign-up starts April 1st and ends May 16th. MOS is excited to partner with Southern Maryland Audubon Society (SMAS) this year. Their members have expertise in this part of Maryland and have helped us pick field trip locations. They are also providing leaders for some of our field trips. There will be two different boat field trips along with a dozen or so more walking field trips.

MOS has received cash and item donations from multiple sponsors. We will be raffling off a number of items, and we have an MOS-wide silent auction for a few big ticket items. Check the convention website MOS Convention to see what's available and more details on all parts of the convention.

We have some great speakers lined up. Our Friday night Keynote Speaker will be Greg Kearns, a Park Naturalist II, from the Prince George's County Department of Parks and Recreation, who will talk about an automated migration tracking system and its impact in North America.

Our Saturday afternoon seminar speakers will be Andy Wilson, Associate Professor for Environmental Studies, Gettysburg College, who will talk about nocturnal flight recordings and Melissa Boyle Acuti, Citizen Science Program Volunteer from the Maryland Park Service, who will talk about Northern Saw-whet Owl banding as part of Project Owlnet station at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Then, Saturday night, our Keynote Speaker will be Fred Tutman, Patuxent Riverkeeper, who will talk about why, in spite of decades of citizen activism, the Patuxent River still struggles to thrive.

The Pin Design contest is closed. We received 15 pin designs from 6 artists. The winner will be announced soon. You can still submit photos to the Photo Contest, and you can vote for your favorite picture starting May 14th and ending May 19th. We will have 8 scientific posters on display during the Saturday afternoon Social. We added a new attendee orientation Friday at noon to help people new to the convention get acclimated.

# MOS Calendar

Through 8/31/2022

## Field Trips

Please follow all restrictions requested by the host organization. Additional details are posted on MOS and chapter web sites.

| | | | |
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| 5/1 | 4:30 – 10 AM | Peters Neck, Dorchester County | Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Owls, chuck-wills-widows. Carpool from Easton, Acme parking lot. |
| 5/1 | 6 AM – 4 PM | Western Shore Migrant Search | Host: YMOS Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Migrant search of Western Shore areas: Susquehanna SP, Swan Harbor, North Point State Park. |
| 5/1 | 7 AM – 12 PM | Izaak Walton League Conservation Farm | Host: Montgomery Bird Club For reservations (required) and directions, email leader Jim Nelson at kingfishers2@verizon.net. Description: Woods, hedgerows, streams, fields, and ponds provide a wide range of bird habitats, and migration should be well underway. Limit: 10. |
| 5/1 | 7:30 – 10 AM | Monthly walk at Kinder Farm Park | Host: AABC Contact Alan Young, alanmyoung@gmail.com, 410-991-8300 |
| 5/1 | 8 AM – 1 PM | Millington NRMA field trip | Host: Kent County Bird Club Contact: Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com Description: Migrating warblers should be on the move while some breeding specialties will be setting up territories. Meet in the Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown at 8:00 AM. Bring lunch or snacks. |
| 5/1 | 8 AM – 12 PM | Oregon Ridge and Agricultural Center | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Simon Best, simonrabest@gmail.com Description: Oregon Ridge is a good spot for warblers, thrushes, and other passerines. The Center for Maryland Agriculture has a variety of open habitats and field. RSVP required, limit 10. |
| 5/1 | 8:15 AM – 12 PM | Cylburn Walk | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-952-9426. Description: Easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Some paths are not paved and can be hilly. Beginning birders welcome. RSVP required, limit 10. |
| 5/3 | 8 – 10 AM | Lake Roland | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-952-9426. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind). RSVP required, limit 20. |
| 5/4 | 8 AM – 12 PM | Bird Walk at Susquehanna State Park | Host: AABC Contact Alan Young, 410-991-8300, alanmyoung@gmail.com |
| 5/4 | 8 AM – 12 PM | First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769 (alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754). Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. Telescope can be useful for distance viewing. Canceled in bad weather and walk will be rescheduled to May 11. |
| 5/5 | 6 – 8 PM | Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Leader varies. Leader may require mask for unvaccinated people. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/ |
| 5/6 | 7 – 11 AM | Birding by Ear at Hughes Hollow | Host: Montgomery Bird Club For reservations (required) and more information, email leader Paul Woodward at grackling@ATT.NET. Description: Tune up your ears as we listen for and learn to identify the songs and calls of migrant and local breeding birds. The trip will be geared to new birders but all are welcome. Limit: 6. |
| 5/7 | 7 AM – 12 PM | Warbler Walk at Susquehanna SP | Host: Harford Bird Club Leader is Tim Houghton (410-510-7504; timhoughton@comcast.net). Description: Warblers will be the focus of the trip, but there should be plenty of other songbirds, as well as waterfowl and waders out on the river. |
| 5/7 | 7:30 – 10 AM | Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas. Trail is gravel and dirt and is mostly flat, no hills. Leader may require mask for unvaccinated people. Reservations not needed. Meet at 7:30 AM at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. |
| 5/7 | 7:30 AM – 3 PM | Birding at Hazel Outdoor Center | Host: Tri-county Bird Club. Leader Mike Walsh at 410-422-0428 or mik.walsh@comcast.net. Description: We'll walk trails through a variety of habitats searching for summer residents, then have lunch at the picnic pavilion. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 a.m. Bring drinks, lunch and snacks; wearing comfortable, waterproof shoes is suggested. |
| 5/7 | 8 – 11 AM | Joint Bird Walk with Baltimore Bird Club | Host: AABC & BBC, Contact Stan Arnold, thrushhost@gmail.com, 410-428-7567 |

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| 5/7 | 9 AM – 12 PM | Green Mount Cemetery | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Shock, mmaryshock@aol.com. Description: Hike paved roads through Green Mount Cemetery to find migrating warblers and orioles and to see resident raptors. Parking is inside the gate on the cemetery roads. Check out greenmountcemetery.com for more information. |
| 5/7 | TBA | Birding at Sideling Hill | Host: Washington County Bird Club Contact Mark or Heather 301-573-1301. Description: Time and meeting place TBD. |
| 5/8 | 6:30 AM – 12 PM | Millington WMA | Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Migrants. Carpool from Easton, Acme parking lot. |
| 5/8 | 7:30 AM – 12 PM | Occuquan Bay NWR | Host: Montgomery Bird Club For reservations (required), contact Mike Bowen at 202-236-0510 or dhmbowen@yahoo.com or Gerry Hawkins at 571-277-8406 or maineusa@comcast.net. Description: Explore the diverse habitats in this refuge at the confluence of the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers. Start at the parking lot in the center of the refuge. Limit: 12. |
| 5/8 | 8 – 11 AM | Marshy Point Nature Center | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. All are welcome, including families. Telescopes useful. RSVP required, limit 10. |
| 5/8 | 8 – 11 AM | Western Regional Park | Host: Howard County Bird Club. Leader David Sandler, detour65@gmail.com. Description: Moderate walking along field edges and woodland trails. Opportunity for warblers, sparrows, thrushes, and flyovers. Facilities available. Meet at Carr's Mill Road parking lot. |
| 5/8 | 8:15 – 11 AM | Cylburn Walk | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mark Linardi, 443- 834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: Easy birding in Cylburn's gardens and urban forest. Expect to find a variety of migrant and resident birds. Some paths are not paved and can be hilly. Beginning birders welcome. RSVP required, limit 10. |
| 5/8 | TBA | Gambrill State Park | Host: Frederick Bird Club Contact Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com for meeting time and location. Description: Warblers and spring arrivals. |
| 5/10 | 8 – 10 AM | Lake Roland | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Ron Davis, ronldavis1963@gmail.com, 410-821-1297. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind). RSVP required, limit 20. |
| 5/11 | 7:30 – 10:30 AM | Warbler Walk at Milford Mill Park | Host: AABC, Contact Gene Ricks, gricks1@verizon.net, 410-952-4382 |
| 5/11 | 7:30 – 10:30 AM | Cromwell Valley Park | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: John Landers, dado1bw@aol.com, 410-292-9549. Description: We will be looking for warblers and other migrants, swallows, flycatchers, raptors, and more. All trails are mowed grass, packed gravel, or paved, and generally flat so walk is accessible to most. Beginners birders welcome! |
| 5/12 | 7 AM – 12 PM | Blue Mash and Oaks Landfill | Host: Montgomery Bird Club For reservations (required), contact leader Mark England at englandmark@comcast.net or 240-308-4114. Description:Starting at the Blue Mash Nature Trail, where we will look for a variety of songbirds and other species. Then we will look for raptors and field birds at the adjacent Oaks Landfill. Limit: 12. Start at 20500 Zion Road, Laytonsville, Md. |
| 5/13 | 8 – 10:30 AM | Bird Walk, Snaggy Mt. Road | Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club Contact Bill Blauvelt at bil.blauvelt@gmail.com. Description: Bird Walk at Snaggy Rd in Garrett County. |
| 5/13 | TBA | Eden Mill | Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Matthew Addicks (maddicks@harfordcountymd.gov). Description: Expect to see warblers, breeders, and some of the raptors that breed in the surrounding area. Registration required ahead of time at http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/parksrecregistration. |
| 5/14 | All Day | World Series of Birding | Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 Description: Student Competition |
| 5/15 | 7 – 11 AM | Rickman/Woodstock Equestrian Park | Host: Montgomery Bird Club For reservations (required) and more information, email leader Scott Young at scott4aves@icloud.com. Dave Roberts will co-lead. Description: Join us as we explore this location for some spring early-morning birding on the west side of Route 28 (https://rb.gy/qpdqda). Limit: 10. |
| 5/15 | 7:30 AM – 1 PM | Susquehanna State Park, Rock Run Gristmill | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Joe Corcoran, corcoran2921@gmail.com, or 667-231-6453. Description: Trip to the river in Harford County for resident Cerulean and Prothonotary Warblers and a collection of spring migrants. Meet at the lot at the end of Rock Run Rd., next to the old mill building. RSVP to leader required. |
| 5/15 | 8 – 10 AM | Monthly walk at Quiet Waters Park | Host: AABC, Contact Jim Collatz, 410-295-3344, jcollatz@aol.com |
| 5/15 | 8 AM – 4 pm | **Youth Birding** | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com, 410-426-7627. Description: "Shore Birds and the Horseshoe Crab" will be this month's theme. Please contact the leader for more information. Meet at Dupont Nature Center. |
| 5/16 | All Day | Susquehanna State Park | Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Waterfowl, warblers, sparrows. Carpool from Easton, Acme parking lot. Meet at 5:15 AM. |

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| 5/17 | 8 – 10 AM | Lake Roland | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mark Linardi, 443- 834-8413 or mlinardi@outlook.com. Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind). RSVP required, limit 20. |
| 5/19 | 6 – 8 PM | Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Leader varies. Leader may require mask for unvaccinated people. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/ |
| 5/20-22 | All Day | MOS Convention | MOS Convention: see Convention web site https://www.mosconvention.org/ |
| 5/21 | 4 – 6:30 PM | North Tarra Road | Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Owls, chuck-wills-widows, whip-poor-wills. Carpool from Easton, Acme parking lot. |
| 5/21 | 7 AM – 12 PM | Sweet Air Area of GSP | Host: Harford Bird Club Contact information (410-692-5978; marksjohnson2@gmail.com). Description: Search for migrants and breeding birds. Meet at the parking lot at the end of Dalton-Bevard Road |
| 5/21 | 7:30 – 10 AM | Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile loop at natural area: fields, wet woods, brushy areas, wetlands, ponds. Natural surface trails may be wet; waterproof footwear advised. Leaders may require mask for unvaccinated people. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot, S side of Governor Bridge Rd., 1 mile east of US Route 301 in Bowie. |
| 5/21 | 8 – 9:30 AM | Druid Hill Park | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center- www.patterson.audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. Participants must adhere to our COVID code of conduct and register in advance at our website, patterson.audubon.org. |
| 5/21 | 8 AM – 12 PM | Saturday Morning Monitoring Walk at Fort McHenry | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754. Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. Telescope can be useful for distance viewing. Canceled in bad weather and walk will be rescheduled to May 28. |
| 5/21 | 8 AM – 12 PM | Hashawha Environmental Center | Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Contact Scott Hodgdon at 443-280-2480 or scotthodgdon@msn.com. Description: Come and enjoy a pleasant walk in the woods and along the stream. Meet at the parking lot at the Bear Branch Nature Center building. |
| 5/21 | 9 AM – 3 PM | Red Knots and Horseshoe Crabs on the Delaware Bay. | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mike Hudson, mike.p.hudson@gmail.com. Description: We will explore the central Delaware Bay coast, looking for migrant shorebirds and horseshoe crabs as well as some of the more localized breeding species. RSVP required, limit 15. |
| 5/21 | TBA | Gambrill Watershed & 4 Ponds Trail | Host: Frederick Bird Club Contact Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com for meeting time and location. Description: Spring migrants. |
| 5/22 | 6:30 AM – 4 PM | Coastal Delaware | Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Shorebirds. Carpool from Easton, Acme parking lot |
| 5/22 | All Day | Delaware Bay Shorebirds & Horseshoe Crabs field trip | Host: Kent County Bird Club Contact: Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com Description: The annual May gathering of northbound shorebirds feeding on Horseshoe Crab eggs is a migration spectacle. We will visit the Bay shore from Mispillion Light south to Prime Hook. Meet in the Dollar General parking lot, Chestertown at 8:00 AM. Bring lunch. |
| 5/24 | 8 – 10 AM | Lake Roland | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Devi Abbot, abbottdevi@gmail.com Description: Continuing series of weekly walks following the progress of spring migration in Lake Roland's varied habitats. Meet at the Light Rail Parking Lot (Boardwalk entrance to the park). Check with leader if weather is extreme (rain, wind). RSVP required, limit 20. |
| 5/28 | 8 – 9:30 AM | Patterson Park | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center- www.patterson.audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. With more than 200 species on record, the park is full of surprises. Participants must adhere to our COVID code of conduct and register in advance at our website, patterson.audubon.org. |
| 5/28 | 8 AM – 12 PM | Krimgold Park | Host: Carroll County Bird Club. Contact Matthew Hodgdon at 301-703-0657 or mhodgdon@msn.com. Description: Come and enjoy a pleasant walk while bird watching in the park. Meet at the last parking lot by the pavilion. |
| 5/28 | 8:30 AM – 12 PM | Perryville Paddle | Host: Harford Bird Club. Contact leaders Colleen Webster (410-459-4577; cwebster@harford.edu) or Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com). Description: Bring your kayak, canoe or stand-up to ply the usually serene waters in the well-protected Mill Creek and historic Furnace Bal. Meet at the Stump Point launch at the far end of the Perrryville Community Park. |
| 5/28 | All Day | E. Vaughn WMA, Worcester County | Host: Talbot Bird Club Description: Shorebirds, nesting warblers. Carpool from Easton, Acme parking lot. Meet at 5:30 AM. |
| 5/28 | TBA | Patuxent NWR trip | Host: Frederick Bird Club. Leader Lynn Kieffer, 301-943-5290 or lynnkieffer@yahoo.com. Meeting time and place TBD. Description: Late migrants |

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| 5/29 | 8 – 11 AM | Herring Run Park | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Kim Tomko. Description: This urban park in Northeast Baltimore is an oasis for many species of migrating and resident birds. Easy walking, on mostly flat, paved paths. Habitats include open fields, edge habitat, wooded areas, and Herring Run itself. RSVP required. Reply to Matt Lince, 443-324-0907 or mdlince@comcast.net. |
| 5/29 | All Day | Field trip to Delaware Bayshore | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Reservations required; email Fred Fallon at fwfallon@ymail.com. Description: Fred and Jane Fallon Description: Fred and Jane Fallon will take us to several areas along the Bay to see migrating shorebirds that mass to feed on Horseshoe Crab eggs. Meet at Bombay Hook Visitor Center by 9 am. For directions, see https://www.friendsofbombayhook.org/visitorinfo.html. |
| 5/30 | 7 AM – 12 PM | Hidden Valley | Host: Harford Bird Club Leader is Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905 or newarkfarms@gmail.com). Description: Hidden Valley area with its sparkling stream and Bradenbaugh Flats, with stops along the way at any other sites with potential. Meet in the parking lot at the northern end of Madonna Road where it crosses Deer Creek. Parking space is limited. |
| 6/1 | 8 AM – 12 PM | First Wednesday Walks at Fort McHenry | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mary Chetelat, 410-665-0769 (alternate contact Wendy Alexander, 443-204-3754). Description: Continuing survey of bird activity at the Fort. Binoculars required. Telescope can be useful for distance viewing. Canceled in bad weather and walk will be rescheduled to June 8. |
| 6/2 | 6 – 8 PM | Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Leader varies. Leader may require mask for unvaccinated people. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/ |
| 6/3 | 8 – 10:30 AM | Bird Walk, Selbysville Access Road | Host: Allegany/Garrett Bird Club Contact Bill Blauvelt at bil.blauvelt@gmail.com. Description: Mud boots are recommended. Meet at the access road that starts at the Friendsville Park. |
| 6/3-5 | All Day | Western Maryland Trip | Host: Frederick Bird Club. Contact Lois Kauffman, 301-845-6690 or md.pa.birding@gmail.com for details. Description: Breeding warblers and other exciting birds |
| 6/4 | 7:30 – 10 AM | Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas. Trail is gravel and dirt and is mostly flat, no hills. Leader may require mask for unvaccinated people. Reservations not needed. Meet at 7:30 AM at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. |
| 6/4 | 7:30 AM – 12 PM | Heartwood Nursery | Host: Harford Bird Club Description: Heartwood Nursery specializes in native shrubs and trees. The property also features preserved forest and meadows planted to attract birds and butterflies. |
| 6/5 | TBA | Dorchester Atlasing | Host: Talbot Bird Club. Contact George Radcliffe, 410-228-7670, radclifg@gmail.com. Description: Atlasing. |
| 6/11 | 7:30 AM – 12 PM | Bird Walk at home of club members Barbara and Earl Dolan | Host: Tri-county Bird Club. Contact Ellen Lawler at 410-982-8695 or emlawler534@comcast.net. Description: Barbara and Earl have created a wildlife sanctuary on their property and have invited us to enjoy a morning bird walk. Meet at Ward Museum parking lot at 7:30 a.m. or at the parking area near the Exxon station (across from McDonalds) in Princess Anne at 7:50. Bring drinks and snacks; wearing comfortable, waterproof shoes is suggested. |
| 6/11 | 8 – 11 AM | Leakin Park | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Paul Kreiss, 410-367-8194 or paul1kreiss@verizon.net. Description: Habitat Walk: Leakin Park Pollinator Meadow. In December 2020, BGE planted 3 acres of meadow in Leakin Park along a forest clearing created for a natural gas pipeline. Registration in advance required; limit 10. |
| 6/11 | 8 – 11 AM | Monkton, Md | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Lani Hyde, 410-812-2425. Description: Join Lani on a walk on private property in Monkton. It's about a 1.5-mile route through the meadow (mowed path) and woods, with some hills. Meet at 3403 Pocock Rd, Monkton. |
| 6/11 | 8 – 11 AM | Patuxent River at Brown's Bridge | Host: Montgomery Bird Club For reservations (required), time, and directions, email leader Cheryl Hogue at cheryl.hogue@gmail.com. Description: On a morning walk, we'll look for Cliff Swallows building mud nests and explore wooded trails on WSSC property bordering the reservoir. Trip will be canceled in case of heavy rain or thunderstorms. Limit: 10. |
| 6/11 | 8 AM – 12 PM | North Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leaders Sue and Alan Young. Description: Explore the North tract for breeding birds such as Prairie Warbler, Northern Parula, Summer Tanager, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, and Red-headed Woodpecker. Reservations required; email Alan at alanmyoung@gmail.com. |
| 6/11 | TBA | Atlas Block Buster | Host: Harford Bird Club Check with Dennis Kirkwood (410-692-5905/newarkfarms@gmail.com ) and Matt Hafner (410-971-3203/hafner.Matt@gmail.com. Description: Help our volunteer scientists determine breeding bird populations in Harford County. |
| 6/12 | 9 – 11 AM | Marshy Point Nature Center | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. All are welcome, including families. Telescopes useful. RSVP required, limit 10. |
| 6/15 | 8 – 9:30 AM | Patterson Park | Host: Baltimore Bird Club and Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Register in advance at our website, patterson.audubon.org. |

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| 6/16 | 6 – 8 PM | Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Leader varies. Leader may require mask for unvaccinated people. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/ |
| 6/18 | 7:30 – 10 AM | Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile loop at natural area: fields, wet woods, brushy areas, wetlands, ponds. Natural surface trails may be wet; waterproof footwear advised. Leaders may require mask for unvaccinated people. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot, S side of Governor Bridge Rd., 1 mile east of US Route 301 in Bowie. |
| 6/18 | 8 – 9:30 AM | Druid Hill Park | Host: Baltimore Bird Club and Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. Participants must adhere to our COVID code of conduct and register in advance at our website, patterson.audubon.org. |
| 6/18 | TBA | Breeding Bird Atlas Party | Host: Washington County Bird Club Contact Mark or Heather for more information at 301-432-7696 Description: We will tackle sections that have not been covered - time and places TBA |
| 6/19 | 9 – 11 AM | **Youth Birding** | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com, 410-426-7627. Description: "Bird Friendly Back Yards" will be this month's theme. Please contact the leader for more information. Meet at Fairwood Forest. |
| 6/25 | 7:30 AM – 12 PM | Field trip to South Tract of Patuxent Research Refuge. | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Ken Cohen (kvulture@aol.com). Description: Easy walk on trails around Cash Lake for breeding season songbirds. |
| 6/25 | 8 AM – 12 PM | Tydings Park Baby Birds Paddle | Host: Harford Bird Club Contact Colleen Webster (410-459-4577 or cwebster@harford.edu) and co-leader and naturalist, Sue Procell (443-417-4919 or procellmd@gmail.com). Description: Ply the interesting waters of Havre de Grace. Join us at 8:00AM at the boat launch ramp with your kayak, stand-up or canoe as we search for waterfowl, waders, peeps and songbirds. |
| 7/2 | 7:30 – 10 AM | Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas. Trail is gravel and dirt and is mostly flat, no hills. Leader may require mask for unvaccinated people. Reservations not needed. Meet at 7:30 AM at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. |
| 7/2 | 8:30 AM – 12 PM | Fair Hill | Host: Harford Bird Club. Leader Dave Webb (410-939-3537; porzana@comcast.net). Description: We will explore diverse habitats for breeding species including Bobolink. Carpoolers meet at 5:55AM at Darlington Park (4549 Conowingo Rd.) or individual drivers at 6:30AM at Parking Lot #3 (2941 Appleton Rd.). Parking fee ($3/vehicle MD residents; $5 out-of-state). Bring water, snacks, repellent, sunscreen and boots if it has rained recently. |
| 7/7 | 6 – 8 PM | Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Leader varies. Leader may require mask for unvaccinated people. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/ |
| 7/10 | 9 – 11 AM | Marshy Point Nature Center | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. All are welcome, including families. Telescopes useful. RSVP required, limit 10. |
| 7/16 | 7:30 – 10 AM | Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile loop at natural area: fields, wet woods, brushy areas, wetlands, ponds. Natural surface trails may be wet; waterproof footwear advised. Leaders may require mask for unvaccinated people. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot, S side of Governor Bridge Rd., 1 mile east of US Route 301 in Bowie. |
| 7/17 | 9 – 11 AM | **Youth Birding** | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com, 410-426-7627. Description: "Waterfowl" will be this month's theme. Please contact the leader for more information. Meet at Patterson Park. |
| 7/17 | All Day | Delaware Shore | Host: Harford Bird Club Contact Dr. Dave Larkin at (410-569-8319 or larkin3001@comcast.net). Description: Delaware's diverse coastal wetland habitats offer a variety of shore birds, water birds, wading species, raptors and songbirds. Meet at the Havre de Grace commuter lot near Rt. 155/I-95 at 7:30AM. Bring lunch and sufficient drink for the day. |
| 7/21 | 6 – 8 PM | Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Leader varies. Leader may require mask for unvaccinated people. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/ |
| 7/23 | 8 – 9:30 AM | Druid Hill Park | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. From forest to lake, a variety of bird species await. Participants must adhere to our COVID code of conduct and register in advance at our website, patterson.audubon.org. |

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| 7/30 | 8 – 9:30 AM | Patterson Park | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. Participants must adhere to our COVID code of conduct and register in advance at our website, patterson.audubon.org. |
| 8/4 | 6 – 8 PM | Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Leader varies. Leader may require mask for unvaccinated people. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/ |
| 8/6 | 7:30 – 10 AM | Monthly walk at Fran Uhler Natural Area | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile out-and-back walk at natural area on the Patuxent River; fields, wet woods, brushy areas. Trail is gravel and dirt and is mostly flat, no hills. Leader may require mask for unvaccinated people. Reservations not needed. Meet at 7:30 AM at east end of Lemon's Bridge Road, off Route 197 just north of Bowie State University. |
| 8/7 | 9 AM – 3 PM | Field Trip to Bombay Hook and other Delaware Bayshore Hotspots | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leaders Gene Scarpulla and Marcia Watson. Reservations required; RSVP to Marcia Watson (marshwren50@comcast.net) by 8/1. Description: This trip is at the height of the fall shorebird migration; also a good time to pick up interesting rare waders such as Tricolored Heron or White Ibis. This will mostly be a drive-and-park type trip. |
| 8/14 | 9 – 11 AM | Marshy Point Nature Center | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leaders: Brent and Mary Byers, baypuffin@hotmail.com or 410-686-7294. Description: Easy half-day walk through varied habitats for feeder birds and other songbirds, raptors, and waterfowl. All are welcome, including families. Telescopes useful. RSVP required, limit 10. |
| 8/18 | 6 – 8 PM | Semi-Monthly afternoon walk at Lake Artemesia | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Description: Two-mile walk around lake on paved path; wheelchair-accessible. Families welcome. Meet at parking area at corner of Berwyn Rd. and Ballew Ave. in Berwyn Heights. No reservations needed. Leader varies. Leader may require mask for unvaccinated people. For more information, see PGAS Meetup site at https://www.meetup.com/Prince-Georges-Audubon-Society/ |
| 8/20 | 7:30 – 10 AM | Monthly walk at Governor Bridge Natural Area | Host: Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS. Leader Bill Sefton (kiwisuits@msn.com). Description: Two-mile loop at natural area: fields, wet woods, brushy areas, wetlands, ponds. Natural surface trails may be wet; waterproof footwear advised. Leaders may require mask for unvaccinated people. Meet at the Natural Area parking lot, S side of Governor Bridge Rd., 1 mile east of US Route 301 in Bowie. |
| 8/20 | 8 – 9:30 AM | Druid Hill Park | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center. Description: Join Audubon and the Maryland Zoo to explore this leafy city park. Participants must adhere to our COVID code of conduct and register in advance at our website, patterson.audubon.org. |
| 8/21 | 8 – 11 AM | **Youth Birding** | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Daisy Sudano, dsudanotrainings@yahoo.com, 410-426-7627. Description: "Bird Banding" will be this month's theme. Please contact the leader for more information. |
| 8/27 | 5 – 8 PM | Havre de Grace Shoreline Evening Paddle | Host: Harford Bird Club Contact leaders Colleen Webster (410-459-4577 or cwebster@haford.edu) or Sue Procell (443-417-4919; procellmd@gmail.com). Description: Bring your kayak, canoe, stand-up to the launch ramp at Tydings Park. The harbor areas are home to a great variety of water-related species. |
| 8/27 | 8 – 11 AM | Cromwell Valley Park | Host: Baltimore Bird Club Leader: Peter Lev, plev@comcast.net or 410-952-9426 Description: First in a series of weekly Tuesday morning walks to follow the progress of fall migration. This park has a variety of habitats including fields, stream-side woods and hillside forest. Expect a variety of migrant and resident birds. Beginning birders welcome. |
| 8/27 | 8 – 9:30 AM | Patterson Park | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Patterson Park Audubon Center- www.patterson.audubon.org. Description: Join Audubon to explore this urban oasis in southeast Baltimore. With more than 200 species on record, the park is full of surprises. For directions, contact Patterson Park Audubon Center. Participants must adhere to our COVID code of conduct and register in advance at our website, patterson.audubon.org. |
| 8/27 | 9 AM – 3 PM | Shorebirds | Host: Baltimore Bird Club. Leader: Mike Hudson, mike.p.hudson@gmail.com. Description: Shorebird migration is peaking across our region. We will work to find and identify as many as possible. We will also look for a number of other bayshore species. Note this is an all-day trip; snacks, sunscreen, bug spray highly recommended! Meet at the Townsend P&R near Townsend, Delaware. RSVP required, limit 15. |

## Meetings

Meetings may be virtual or in-person (or both)! Additional details, including links, will be posted on chapter web sites and the MOS calendar, as available.

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| 5/3 | 7 – 9 PM | Baltimore Bird Club | Gail Mackiernan will speak on a 2019 trip to Panama. | Virtual |
| 5/5 | 7 – 9 PM | Frederick Bird Club | Erin Hewitt Ragheb will speak on her research with Florida Grasshopper Sparrows. | Virtual |
| 5/6 | 6:30 – 9 PM | Harford Bird Club | MOTHerhood: An Introductory Guide for Birders, by Dave Webb. Free pizza and dessert. RSVP by May 4. | Churchville Presbyterian Church |
| 5/10 | 7 – 9 PM | BBC Board Meeting | While only authorized board members have a vote, any club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. | Virtual |
| 5/10 | 7 – 9 PM | Kent County Bird Club | Speaker & program to be announced | Heron Point |
| 5/10 | 7 – 9 PM | Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS | Paul Baicich speaking on Access Matters: Why Birders Should Care about access to lands for birding. | Virtual |
| 5/11 | 7:30 – 9:30 PM | Montgomery Bird Club | Social at Woodend, to honor the Member of the Year, enjoy members' presentation of their most beloved recent photographs, and have a delicious dinner. | Woodend |
| 5/12 | 7:30 – 9 PM | Howard County Bird Club | Kurt Schwarz will speak on The Kaleidoscope of Birds of the DMV | Virtual |
| 5/18 | 7 – 9 PM | Anne Arundel Bird Club | Speaker and program TBA | Virtual |
| 5/19 | 7:30 – 9 PM | Caroline Bird Club | Andi Pupke, Education/Outreach Director of Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage will discuss their nesting box program and recommendations of some native plants for pollinators and pollinator gardens. | Caroline County Public Library |
| 5/20-22 | All Day | MOS | MOS Convention: see Convention web site https://www.mosconvention.org/ | Solomons Inn Resort |
| 5/23 | 6 – 9 PM | Tri-county Bird Club | "Can Floating Islands save endangered seabirds in Maryland's Coastal Bays?" presented by David Curson, Director of Bird Conservation, Audubon Mid-Atlantic. | MAC Education Center |
| 5/24 | 7 – 9 PM | Washington County Bird Club | Member's Night | Mt. Aetna Nature Center |
| 6/2 | 6 – 9 PM | Picnic: Frederick Bird Club | Annual Picnic and Bird Walk | Pinecliff Park |
| 6/4 | 10 AM – 12 PM | MOS | Board Meeting | Kinder Farm Park |
| 6/14 | 7 – 9 PM | BBC Board Meeting | While only authorized board members have a vote, any club member is welcome to attend and participate in discussions. | Virtual |
| 6/14 | 7 – 9 PM | Patuxent Bird Club & PGAS | Annual Members' Night. Sign up ahead of time by sending an email to Ken Cohen (kvulture@aol.com). | Virtual |
| 6/26 | 4 – 7 PM | Washington County Bird Club | Picnic. Please bring your own plates, silverware, drink, and a dish to share. | Fort Frederick State Park |
| 7/15 | 6:15 – 9 PM | Harford Bird Club | Club Social: Enjoy cold beverages and a variety of delicious appetizers along with some stimulating conversation. | Anita C Leight Estuary Center |
| 8/28 | 4 – 7 PM | Washington County Bird Club | Picnic. Please bring your own plates, silverware, drink, and a dish to share. | Camp Harding Park |

## Spring Counts

Information is current as of publication date, but subject to change if state pandemic guidance/restrictions change

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| Fred Archibald Count | Contact David Smith, 443-995-4108, lacsmith12@comcast.net | 5/7 |
| Dorchester County May Count | Contact Harry Armistead 215-913-4785 or harryarmistead@hotmail.com | 5/7 |
| Allegany County May Count | Contact Mark Eanes, mdeanes@atlanticbb.net | 5/14 |
| Anne Arundel County May Count | Comtact Steve Sheffield, srsheffield@comcast.net | 5/14 |
| Baltimore County May Count | Contact Libby Errickson, elizabeth.errickson@gmail.com | 5/14 |
| Calvert County May Count | Contact Sherman Suter, shermansuter@gmail.com | 5/14 |
| Caroline May Count | Contact Debby Bennett, dabennett1996@gmail.com | 5/14 |
| Carroll County May Count | Contact Scott Hodgdon, scotthodgdon@msn.com or 443-280-248 | 5/14 |
| Charles County May Count | Contact Lynne Wheeler, somdaudobon@yahoo.com | 5/14 |
| Dorchester County May Count | Contact Harry Armistead 215-913-4785 or harryarmistead@hotmail.com | 5/14 |
| Frederick County May Count | Contact David Smith, 443-995-4108, lacsmith12@comcast.net | 5/14 |
| Garrett County May Count | Contact dbailey3@earthlink.net | 5/14 |
| Howard County May Count | Contact Greg Peterson, sig29@aol.com | 5/14 |
| Kent County May Count | Contact Walter Ellison & Nancy Martin, 410-778-9568, birdclub.kentcountymd@gmail.com | 5/14 |
| Montgomery County May Count | Contact Evelyn Ralston, evelynralston@icloud.com | 5/14 |
| Patuxent/PGAS May Count | Coordinator TBA – check PBC website https://patuxentbirdclub.org/calendar-3/ | 5/14 |
| St. Mary's County May Count | Contact J. Tyler Bell jtylerbell@yahoo.com | 5/14 |
| Somerset County May Count | Contact Pat Valdata, pvaldata@charter.net | 5/14 |
| Washington County May Count | Contact Mark Abdy 301-432-7696 | 5/14 |
| Worcester County May Count | Contact Marcia Balestri, mebalestri@gmail.com | 5/14 |
| World Series of Birding | Contact: George Radcliffe, radclifg@gmail.com, 410-463-1669 | 5/14 |
| Audrey Carroll Count | Contact David Smith, 443-995-4108, lacsmith12@comcast.net | 5/15 |
| Talbot County May Count | Contact Ron Ketter 708-373-5532 or rgketter@gmail.com | 5/15 |
| Wicomico County May Count | Contact Ellen Lawler, emlawler534@comcast.net | 5/15 |